Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you worried about North Korea's threats to attack Guam?

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

A growing China will benefit Asia and the world, President Xi Jinping says. ➤ PAGE 13

WORLD

Love her or loathe her, Margaret Thatcher transformed Britain. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Beyonce and Jay-Z's trip to Cuba angers Cuban-American politicians. ➤ PAGE 20

Palacios gets 3 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former lawmaker Raymond D. Palacios, who pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine or "ice," was sentenced yesterday to three years in prison.

"The court finds that you have expressed remorse and I believe you," Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo told Palacios at the hearing attended by some of the defendant's family and friends.

Govendo sentenced the 49-year-old Palacios to five years in prison, all suspended except for three

See PALACIOS on Page 4

$2M Marpi landfill contract to go to Tang's Corp.

» **Some $6M worth of govt projects under procurement protest**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An estimated $2.1 million contract to operate and maintain the Marpi landfill for at least three years will go to Tang's Corp., putting an end to an almost eight-month no-bid emergency contract to SARS/Success International Corp. which finished second among five bids.

The Inos administration, however, continues to explore the viability of a waste-to-energy program that some lawmakers also support, not only to help lower utility costs but also to prolong the Marpi landfill's lifespan.

The three-year Marpi landfill contract of some $700,000 a year could be extended for up to two more years.

Meanwhile, two other government projects totaling almost $6 million have faced snags, after losing contractors filed procurement protests now under review by Finance's Division of Procurement and Supply.

These include the estimated $2 million Saipan traffic light system

See MARPI on Page 4

SINGING WITH GLEE

The Marianas High School Glee Club, under the direction of Paul Dujua, performs for the Rotary Club of Saipan during a meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan. The Rotary Club of Saipan donated $250 to the group.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

NMC board accused of delaying tactics

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College faculty and staff members expressed outrage yesterday with the actions of the Board of Regents, accusing it of using delaying tactics to put off deciding on the contract of college president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D.

Although a special board meeting was called at 1pm yesterday, session officially began 20 minutes later, only to disappoint attendees—mostly faculty and staff—when the board voted to immediately suspend the order of business, canceling the public comment section of the meeting.

Hart

For House Committee on Education chair Rep. Roman Benavente, skipping the public comment section of the meeting is unfair, as the agenda has been published with expectations from the public.

"I know it's the choice of the regents to do what they want, but if you print the agenda meeting for 24 hours, the expectation is there. As far as 'fair and balanced' is concerned, it's only fair to hear the public comments from whoever wants to speak," Benavente said.

He said he respects the autonomy of the board but he is also

See NMC on Page 4

OPA probe on NMC, board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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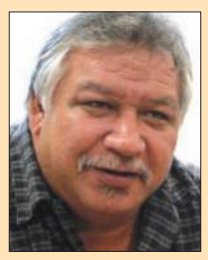
REPORTER



Benavente

A lawmaker disclosed yesterday that the Northern Marianas College and its board are not only the subject of complaints but are actually being investigated by the government.

House Education Committee chair Rep. Roman Benavente disclosed this yesterday while attending yesterday's special board meeting at the college.

The probe, he said, is being conducted by the Office of

See OPA on Page 4

Few lawmakers so far heed call for drug testing. PAGE 2
CHC loses orthopedic surgeon; Babauta blamed. PAGE 3

Local

Few lawmakers so far heed call for drug testing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) called on his colleagues in the House of Representatives and Senate yesterday to take a voluntary drug test to help strengthen public trust in lawmakers and in the wake of yesterday's three-year jail time slapped on former representative Ray Palacios for drug possession.

Only a handful of the 20 members of the three-month-old 18th Legislature have so far expressed their willingness to undergo drug testing as of yesterday.

"I will take the drug test not because I have to, but because I want to," House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune.*

Camacho was one of the first members of the 17th Legislature to take a voluntary drug test after their colleague, Palacios, was charged with drug possession.

"When the people elect you to represent their voice, there shouldn't be any doubt in their minds that you are capable to do the work and that you are a law-abiding citizen. As representatives of the people, we are held to a higher standard than most and there is nothing wrong with that," Camacho added.

Leon Guerrero, a former police officer, urged his colleagues in the 18th Legislature to take a drug test during a meeting of a special Committee on Cost Cutting in the speaker's conference room yesterday afternoon.

He said before lawmakers could author a bill calling for mandatory drug testing among all law enforcement, regulatory and certain agencies, they should do it themselves.

"This is to eliminate public perception of drug use among lawmakers. We need to lead by example. If we are to advocate a drug-free government and if we're mandating law enforcement agencies to undergo drug test, we also have to do it," Leon Guerrero said.

If it were up to him, lawmakers should have drug testing at least twice a year. A drug test costs some $45.

Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan) said he will be "the second one" to undergo drug testing, referring to Leon Guerrero as the "first one."

Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) said last night he has already asked for a drug test for himself and his staff.

"My staff is scheduling it as soon as practicable just to assure the public that we are concerned about drug abuse," he said.

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) also recognizes the need for lawmakers to take a drug test.

"As a public servant and in fairness to government employees who are required to undergo drug test prior to employment, I will submit myself to a drug test like I did during the 17th Legislature," she said.

Rep. Tony Benavente (IR-Saipan) said he will take the drug test late this month, after his return from an official trip to New Zealand along with two other House members.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he will undergo drug test because "it's part of the rules."

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), a former customs officer, said he is willing to take a drug test. "I just strongly believe that everyone at the Legislature should."

'Fund management, trustee operating in general secrecy'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

While he hailed the efforts demonstrated by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Office of Attorney General to protect the welfare of government employees, active pension member Robert Hunter said that both the Fund management and its trustee *ad litem* run the retirement agency in general secrecy.

"I do not believe the trustee *ad litem* is protecting our interests at all, and in fact I believe they are working in tandem to some degree with the counsel of Ms. Betty Johnson. Fund management, which is holding a considerable amount of mine and others monies, and is supposedly there to oversee the interests of all members, have in my opinion not operated in any way close to an appropriate manner," said Hunter.

He said both the management and the trustee *ad litem* have made "almost no effort to communicate honestly with members, no effort to lay out their plans to members, and have basically operated in general secrecy."

As for those who have applied and are awaiting the refund of their monies, Hunter said the Fund management and the trustee *ad litem* have come up with many excuses not to make those refunds happen.

"Since the court order of

See FUND on Page 4

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its FY 2013 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Governor's Executive Conference Room, 1st Floor, Administration Bldg., Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Preliminary Agenda

Presiding – Thomas J. Camacho, Chairman

I. Call to Order
II. Welcome & Introduction of new Member & Guests
III. Roll call
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of January 31, 2013 Meeting Minutes
VI. Correspondence
VII. Public Comment on Agenda Items
VIII. Old Business (Report: Special Assistant for Public Transportation/Chairman)
A. CPTAB Approved Operating Bylaws (Legal Sufficiency Review)
B. COTA's Approved Vision and Mission
C. Office Vehicles Requisition: Status
D. COTA's Office Space and One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource & Information Service Center Layout Plan: Status
E. ADA Para-Transit System: Saipan Call-a-Ride Transportation Services for People with Disabilities and Elderly (Driver Volunteer Program Suspension and Vehicle Transfer Request from CNMI CDD and PSS): Status
F. CNMI Transportation Master Plan RFP: Status
G. Saipan Fixed-Flex Route and Para-Transit System Feasibility Study RFP: Status
H. Saipan Transit Mini Buses RFP/ITB: Status
I. Transportation Management Software & Tracking System RFP: Status
J. Saipan Transit Service (Fixed-Flex/Deviation Route and ADA Para-Transit System) RFP: Status
K. COTA's Propose New Administration (One-Call/One-Click Center) Building and Vehicle Maintenance, Repair & Storage Facility Layout Plan: Status
L. Ferry Boat Feasibility Study (DPW/FHwA) RFP: Status
M. New COTA Website Development: Status
IX. New Business (Action Items)
A. Election of Officers: Action
i. Vice Chairman
ii. Secretary
B. Proposed COTA Goals: Action
C. Propose COTA Conflict of Interest Policy: Action
D. Propose COTA Public Participation Policy: Action
E. Propose COTA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Action
F. COTA's Program Income Special Accounts Established: Information
G. COTA's Public Land Designation (DPL), Parameter Survey (DNLR) and Land Clearing Permit Application (One-Start Permit Center): Information
H. Ferry Boat Stakeholders Meeting (April 5, 2013): Action
I. Draft Office Space Lease/Rental Agreement with NMIRF: Action
J. New Office Cleaning Service RFP: Information
X. Financial Report (Fund Status)
A. FY 2012 Urbanized Formula Grant
XI. Grant Status Report
A. Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) II Grant
B. FY 2013 Rural Formula Grant Apportionment/Sequestration
XII. Executive Session: CPTAB may vote to go into executive session as provided under the CNMI Open Government Act
XIII. Misc.
XIV. Next Meeting: July 18, 2013
XV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA three (3) days in advance at 664-2292.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant No. MP-18-X007-00, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

CPA files $1M suit for project defects at the Saipan airport

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has filed a lawsuit in federal court against two companies over alleged design and engineering defects found in a project known as West Addition at the Saipan International Airport.

CPA is suing the Chicago-based Boeing Co. and the Texas corporation Boeing Service Co. for breach of contract.

CPA, through counsel Matthew T. Gregory, is seeking over $1 million for damages, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

Boeing Co.'s international headquarters is reportedly located in Chicago, Illinois. Boeing Service Co. is reportedly a resident of Texas and a subsidiary of a business unit or division of the Boeing Co.

According to the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday, CPA entered into a contract with Boeing on Feb. 12, 2004, for the design and construction of the West Addition project. It involved upgrading the Saipan International Airport's terminal space and other security improvements.

Boeing used as its design and engineering subcontractor Leo A. Daly Co. for the project.

Gregory said, that on Oct. 3, 2011, Leo A. Daly notified CPA that undisclosed structural problems likely existed in the design and engineering of the airport facility.

CPA communicated its concerns about the design and construction flaws to Boeing in an attempt to have Boeing remedy the West Addition defects.

"To Boeing's credit, it promptly responded and has investigated CPA's concerns constructively and in good faith, with the stated goal of remedying the defects," Gregory said in the complaint.

Following Boeing's investigation, Gregory said, Boeing determined that the design, engineering, and construction of the West Addition did not comply with typhoon or earthquake protection standards applicable to Saipan or with the CNMI Building Safety Code.

Gregory said that designing the West Addition to meet lower seismic zone requirements, as well as incorporating other code violations, and implementing the improper design in construction violated the duties owed by Boeing to CPA.

The structural deficiencies, he said, will require major structural reengineering and retrofitting.

Gregory disclosed that CPA and Boeing are currently negotiating to accomplish the needed repairs but that final agreement has not been reached as of filing of the lawsuit.

'No texting, talking on phone while driving' bill is revived

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) has resurrected a bill restricting the use of wireless phones for talking, texting, or surfing the Web while driving vehicles, to help deter road accidents.

This comes over a year after the JGO Committee in the 17th Legislature recommended passage of a similar bill that failed to make it into law.

Deleon Guerrero, who chairs the House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee, pre-filed House Bill 18-48 or the Commonwealth Wireless Telephone Restrictions in Vehicles Safety Act on Monday afternoon. Seven other House members co-sponsored the bill.

The bill, however, grants exemptions from the cell phone restriction proposal, including making emergency or 911 calls and if the driver uses a hands-free listening and talking device.

Persons under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving while using a wireless phone to talk or text, even if their gadget is equipped with a hands-free device.

The proposed fine is $50 for the first offense and $100 for each subsequent offense.

Leon Guerrero, a former police officer, proposes that 50 percent or more of fees, fines and penalties collected shall be set aside to benefit the Department of Public Safety.

"There is growing public concern regarding the safety implications of the widespread practice of using handheld wireless telephones while operating motor vehicles. Many vehicle near-accidents and accidents were the result of drivers operating a motor vehicle while using wireless telephones," the bill states.

This cell phone use restriction does not apply to emergency service professionals using wireless phones while driving an authorized emergency vehicle in the course and scope of their duties. Emergency services include law enforcement, health care, fire division, and other related emergency services.

Last year, Guam signed a law banning the use of cell phones while driving. At the time, former representative Stanley Torres said the CNMI could have been the first one to do it had his colleagues acted on a bill he introduced.

In August 2010, then DPS commissioner Santiago F. Tudela issued a directive to all DPS employees banning the use of cell phone and texting while driving a DPS government vehicle. No other CNMI agency followed DPS' lead.

CHC loses lone orthopedic surgeon; Babauta gets blame

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The islands' public hospital has lost its lone orthopedic surgeon and a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board member is blaming it on CEO Juan Babauta, for his alleged failure to "act responsibly" on the matter.

CHCC board member Anthony Raho disclosed the departure of the hospital's full-time orthopedic doctor despite the physician's desire to stay. The doctor accepted a job offer in Guam.

"We recently lost our orthopedic surgeon who wanted to stay here and I think the failure of the CEO has caused this physician to leave! Now we have no orthopedic surgeon," said Raho, adding that contracting the doctor's job outside will be more expensive for the cash-strapped corporation.

In his defense, Babauta told the board that he acted responsibly on the issue, with the best interest of the hospital in mind.

"I think it's worthy that you hear my version of this story. The said doctor is earning around $145,000 [per annum]. One day, he came to me and told me he was offered a job in Guam at $350,000. If I will not raise his salary, he said he will leave," said Babauta.

Also, Babauta said, the same physician wanted the corporation's help to bring in his wife from the Philippines. If this happens, the doctor was amenable to a $35,000 bump in his salary at CHC, which would boost his per annum wage to $180,000.

"If we were to help bring in his wife, he will accept a $180,000 salary. First of all, if I were to offer him $350,000 and hire him on the spot I will also have to increase the salary of 27 other physicians. [Agreeing to this request] will be irresponsible for me!" explained Babauta.

When the management was about to discuss the new $180,000 salary offer, with a promise to help bring the doctor's wife on island, the physician had already changed his mind and had decided to leave his post in exchange for the $350,000 job offer in Guam, Babauta said.

According to the CEO, he even considered the physician for the post of director for Medical Affairs.

Raho expressed surprised about these new details, accusing Babauta of hiding the information from the board during his recent performance evaluation.

"You never said anything about $350,000. We brought this up in your evaluation and you didn't tell us," said Raho.

Babauta denied hiding any information.

During the exchanges of heated arguments, Raho asked Babauta: "Do you think it's a failure on your part?"

"No!" replied Babauta.

"That's the trouble this board has with John Babauta! He can't accept responsibility for a [expletive] thing in this hospital!" shouted the irritated Raho.

The heated exchange broke off at the behest of Senate vice president Victor Hocog who was at the meeting and CHCC board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, which asked the CHCC board chair to move to the next item of the agenda.

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'10 pct. budget cut or top-down cost cuts'

The House Committee on Cost-Cutting are looking at a 10-percent across-the-board budget cuts or a top-down cost-cutting wherein agencies will decide where to cut, while the House Committee on Revenue Generation will bring up in their meeting today ideas such as support for a Saipan casino bill and enforcement of tax laws.

Both panels are finding ways to pump more money into the NMI Retirement Fund to prolong its lifespan beyond March 2014.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan), chairman of the cost-cutting panel, said the two main options will have to be voted on by all committee members.

At yesterday's meeting, Yumul and four other members discussed Yumul's specific strategies including consolidation of agencies with overlapping functions, energy use reduction, fuel expense reduction, closing out vacant fulltime employee positions, travel ban unless required by a federal grant, privatizing some government functions, eliminating deputy positions in government agencies, eliminating offices of "affairs" and reduction in labor force.

However, there was no final decision made as four of nine members were absent.

Rep. Tony Benavente (IR-Saipan) said privatizing parks maintenance alone could save the government some $250,000 a year.

Benavente, a former director of the Division of Parks and Recreation, said a little over $500,000 is spent on parks maintenance every year. He said by privatizing this government function, the government "could save half of that amount."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said privatization plans would be embedded in his proposed fiscal year 2014 budget submission to the Legislature.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the Revenue-Generation and Ways and Means Committees, separately said yesterday that besides legalizing casino operations on Saipan, the other proposals on the table are a tax amnesty and enforcement of tax laws such as sales receipt issuance.

Sablan is also pre-filing a bill that would authorize electronic table games in Saipan hotels with at least 200 rooms.

The Ways and Means Committee chair said he would also like to find out why investors such as E-Land has not started renovating the hotels it has acquired to help accommodate tourists. He cited E-Land's purchase of The Palms and Coral Ocean Point, both of which could have welcomed thousands of tourists.

Sablan told reporters yesterday that hotels have reported increased occupancy and more rooms are needed to accommodate more tourists. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

OPA

From Page 1

the Public Auditor.

Public Auditor Michael Pai has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune* inquiries on the matter as of press time.

Benavente said he was made aware of some things about the probe but he declined to elaborate. According to the lawmaker, the probe began after "serious concerns" were raised against the NMC management and its board.

His committee, Benavente said, has also been receiving numerous complaints on issues surrounding the college.

"It's not about political influence… but based on things they heard and based on complaints such as disparity in the hiring [process]," said Benavente.

Long-time faculty member and former Faculty Senate president Larry Lee described the OPA probe as welcome news.

Lee, in a statement prepared for the public comment period of the board meeting, indicated that these issues about the leadership of the Board of Regents should serve "as a wakeup call."

"The board basically ignored the faculty's concern [on the vote of no confidence]. This should have been a wakeup call, a clear signal, to the board that that there is a serious problem occurring at the college and that the regents need to step in to investigate. Instead, the board chose to just sweep the issue under the rug and not even consider listening to or paying any attention to the faculty's concern," stated Lee.

Wil Maui, a faculty member of the business department, also prepared a statement disclosing the president's arbitrary decision to pay some faculty and not others.

In an interview with Cyndi Deleon Guerrero, who attended the meeting as a parent yesterday, she said she was disappointed with the action of the board to cancel the comment section for the public.

"I am very, very concerned with the seemingly stronger impression I've been receiving from the board themselves that we must retain Dr. Hart for the purpose of reaffirming accreditation because it's not stated in the ACCJC letter. So I wanted to clarify that point: Did the ACCJC made that as a condition for our reaffirmation?" she asked.

NMC

From Page 1

sympathetic to the staff who have been raising concerns about the institution's leadership. He said he will not interfere in the affairs of the board nor question its decisions but, as an elected official, he has a duty to the community.

The board, which spent some five minutes only in the open session, notified attendees that its closed-door session would last an hour. It actually lasted more than two hours, to the disgust of the waiting crowd.

Board chair Juan T. Lizama later announced that the executive session will be extended and that the decision on Hart's contract was not going to be made yesterday as members are just in the deliberation process. He declined to give a timeframe as to when a decision will be made.

Hart's contract is expiring July 4. She must receive a notice whether she will be renewed or not 60 days prior to this date, or May 3.

The president's employment contract has appeared several times as among the agenda items in the board's previous meetings. Her performance has already been evaluated but the results have not been made public. The board also earlier stated that the performance evaluation will have no bearing on their decision on Hart's contract.

According to Lizama, the "whole process really takes time" to complete.

Whether the evaluation results will have a bearing on the board's decision, faculty and staff remain clueless due to the confusing directions of the regents themselves.

"If they're not going to use her performance evaluation as a basis for her renewal, it's like ignoring employee's performance evaluation when their contract is up for renewal," one staffer told *Saipan Tribune.*

Another employee expressed disgust upon learning that the board is still deliberating on Hart's contract, which the employee described as a "clear delaying tactic."

"What takes them so long to act on this item? It has been on the board's table for many months, the issue has been cited in the ACCJC letter, evaluation has been done, they've talked about it many times in their executive session. …Now they're saying they're still in the deliberation process?" the employee said.

Sources disclosed that the seven-member board has yet to get a consensus as members are split on whether Hart will be retained or not. Employees and staff believe that until the "desired number" is reached, the issue will remain on the table.

Faculty Senate president Amanda Angel Diaz is just in waiting mode.

"Let's see what they [board members] have to do," she said, hoping that the board will consider the impact of whatever decision the board will arrive at.

MARPI

From Page 1

upgrade and almost $4 million Cross Island Road Improvement Project Phase II-B.

Acting Department of Public Works secretary Martin Sablan, whose nomination is up for Senate action today, confirmed that a review committee from DPW and the Division of Environmental Quality has selected Tang's Corp. over SARS/Success International to operate and maintain the Marpi landfill for at least three years.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), who has been closely following the status of the Marpi landfill procurement process, said "it's about time" a long-term contract is awarded.

Last year, a no-bid, emergency $229,000 contract was awarded to SARS for four months. That emergency contract was extended every month since then; the last one is up to the end of this month.

Tebuteb said he supports incorporating waste-to-energy technology into the Marpi landfill operations but "the government cannot just sit and wait for that technology to come in before taking care of the landfill."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said there is an immediate need to ensure that the Marpi landfill is contracted out to ensure that the operation and management of the landfill remain in compliance with environmental requirements.

He said the contract is solely for the purpose of the daily operations of the landfill.

"Meanwhile, the administration continues to explore the viability of waste-to-energy projects. There have been discussions with potential investors regarding utilizing the waste from the landfill as a stock for this type of technology. If and when that opportunity arises, then the government will embark on determining the best approach to dealing with the needed stock for waste-to-energy, while also ensuring that the landfill continues to be managed and operated in accordance [with] governing environmental requirements," he said.

Rep. Tony Benavente (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, along with Tebuteb, said that DPW and DEQ need to ensure that the new contractor for the Marpi landfill will comply with environmental laws and regulations.

"And I am also glad that Martin Sablan is back at DPW," Benavente added.

Procurement protests

Friday last week, senators took turns asking the DPW secretary nominee, Sablan, about ongoing projects and procurement protests.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and other members of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations expressed concern that some contractors may be filing procurement protests that have no "legitimate grounds" and are delaying the process.

Sablan said that two DPW projects are now under procurement protest.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

years, with no parole and with credit for time-served.

After serving his sentence, Palacios will be placed on probation for two years and required to pay a $2,000 fine.

Palacios will start serving his sentence on April 22.

The judge noted that Palacios has the support of a family that is well known in the community. "You hurt your father and your family so badly," Govendo said.

He described as ridiculous Palacios' excuse that he was simply helping out a friend by serving as a courier.

Police said that Palacios sold $100 worth of "ice" to a cooperating source on two separate occasions on Oct. 19, 2011. The "ice" weighed .08 and .12 grams.

Govendo urged Palacios to be a productive member of the community when he comes out of prison.

Palacios apologized to the government and the people he represented when he was still a lawmaker. He said at the time he thought he was simply helping a friend but later realized he was committing a crime.

"I got carried away. I committed a mistake," he said. "Never this thing will happen again. I have to pay the consequences. I am more confident that it will never happen again."

When asked by Govendo about a report by the Probation Office that he admitted to using "ice" and that he stopped in 2004, Palacios said "yes" but stressed that at the time he was never addicted to the substance.

Attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for Palacios, recommended a sentence of one year in jail, five years of probation, and payment of $2,000 fine.

Torres quoted the Probation Office as saying that the case is a victimless crime.

"I think [Palacios] is the victim himself and his family a victim," Torres said.

The defense lawyer said Palacios made a mistake and learned his lesson.

Assistant attorney general James B. McAllister recommended the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment without parole, plus a $2,000 fine and $100 court assessment fee.

McAllister said the court should send a message to the community that use or possession of "ice" is a serious offense that will be met with serious consequences and no one in the community is immune from punishment for criminal behavior.

McAllister said that when the crime was committed, Palacios was a two-term elected representative and active employee of the people of the Commonwealth.

"As such, defendant was entrusted with great authority and served as a leader and role model to the community. Defendant's actions in this case have violated the public confidence, the oath of office, and the very principles set forth by his predecessors in the Constitution and public laws," the prosecutor said.

FUND

From Page 2

January 2013 instructing them to continue to work to process applications, this processing has come to a standstill. In fact there has been no update on the processing of applications noted on the Fund website for over two months now (since Jan. 18). It was these things that prompted our elected officials to try to remedy this behavior through the passage of 18-2," he said.

Hunter has already filed to withdraw his retirement contributions. He was approved for withdrawal and has already been transferred to the Social Security system.

"I agreed to this premised on my ability to receive the refund of my contributions, so that I could reinvest these to supplement my retirement under Social Security. The transfer to the Social Security system was not an easy one for me, and I suppose not an easy one for many members. As you might know, we will have to work an additional 10 years to avail ourselves of the minimum retirement and 20 more years for the maximum. As you might also know, the Social Security benefit is nearly a third of what I would have received under the CNMI retirement system," he shared.

Hunter lauded the governor and members of the Senate and House, all of whom supported Public Law 18-2.

"It would have been significantly easier for them to take the easier albeit absolutely unfair path of letting active member contributions go unprotected and unrefunded. The governor has gone out of his way to speak on the matter, write letters to the trustee *ad litem* insisting he comply with the law, and more recently encouraged compliance via PL 18-2," he added.

Inos keeps OMB's Villagomez, two board members

» Governor reviews *man'amko* concerns

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is keeping Virginia C. Villagomez on as special assistant for management and budget and as Capital Improvement Office Program administrator. He is also retaining Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors member Fermin Sakisat and Board of Professional Licensing member Gregorio Q. Castro.

Inos decided yesterday not to accept the courtesy resignations that Villagomez, Sakisat, and Castro submitted separately.

These are among the latest decisions that the seven-week-old Inos administration has made pursuant to an ongoing agency performance review and reorganization.

The governor still has a few expected appointments to make in the coming days, including a new Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary that would need the Senate's advice and consent, along with decisions on remaining courtesy resignations by board members and Cabinet members.

Man'amko concerns

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the governor is reviewing the concerns that senior citizens or *man'amko* raised regarding the management abilities of Office on Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala.

Senior citizens wrote to the governor in March, asking him to remove Mondala from her post.

"Governor Inos assures the congregates that he is reviewing their concerns to ensure that a fair and due process is afforded to both sides before a final decision is rendered. During this time, the governor respectfully seeks the patience of the congregates as a decision to resolve this matter is forthcoming," Demapan said.

MBI DONATION ARC
American Red Cross staff Kennedy Benjamin, right, takes a photo with Micronesian Brokers Inc. staff on Monday, April 8, at MBI's warehouse on Lower Navy Hill. Approximately $2,000 worth of in-kind goods was donated to support ARC's Walkathon fundraising, scheduled for Saturday, April 13.

Girl testifies in sex abuse trial

A minor told the Superior Court yesterday how musician Dan Kalikohua Johnson allegedly sexually abused her in 2009.

In the ongoing jury trial of 36-year-old Johnson, the girl stated that Johnson sexually abused her in May 2009.

The girl, 16, testified that in one occasion Johnson asked her to touch his privates.

The girl, however, could not recall many things, including whether she told her teacher and principal about what Johnson did to her.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday shortly before noon, assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll was still questioning the alleged victim.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown is assisting Driscoll in the trial. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer is counsel for the defendant.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman is presiding over the jury trial that began Monday.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Johnson with attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The musician pleaded not guilty.

A police detective stated in his report that he received a call on June 24, 2012, about a girl who ran away from home. Later that night, the girl called the detective again that she was at her aunt's residence in Kagman II.

When the detective met and asked the girl why she ran away, she allegedly confessed that Johnson sexually abused her on May 17, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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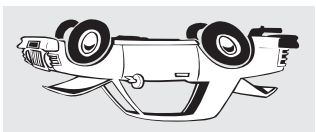

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Rm. 304, 3rd Floor Marianas Business Plaza
(formerly Nauro Building)
Business Hours: 8:30am - 6:00pm (Mon.-Fri.)
9:00am - 4:00pm (Saturday)
Tel: 234-3800, 285-3900
Contact Loida or one of our friendly staffs

Earn College Credits this Summer!
SUMMER ACADEMY
The College Access Challenge Grant is offering a scholarship of up to $800 for high school seniors and juniors to take college courses at the Northern Marianas College, under the Summer Academy. The Summer Academy affords high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. In addition to college level work, Summer Academy participants will also receive college advising, academic tutoring and college preparatory and life skills training.
For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 234-5498 ext: 1346 or email cacg@nmcnet.edu.
SUMMER ACADEMY INFO SESSION:
April 10, 2013, 5-8pm @ Student Center, Building J
April 20, 2013, 9-12pm
**FAFSA Application & Summer Academy Scholarship Applications due April 30, 2013
COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

2013 BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR GALA

Aldan-Pierce to be honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

TAMUNING, Guam—For the fifth year, First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* are presenting Lifetime Achievement Awards to honor businesswomen who are pioneers in their fields, who work tirelessly in the community to improve the quality of life in their communities and who serve as role models for the businesswomen of today. This year, the Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to Marian Aldan-Pierce of Saipan and Mariquita Calvo Leon Guerrero of Guam.

Aldan-Pierce is the division president of DFS Saipan Limited. She has worked for DFS Saipan for 38 years rising to her present position.

Mariquita Calvo Leon Guerrero is the owner and operator of Tita's Bakery. She has been in business for 48 years.

Aldan-Pierce

Leon Guerrero

The eighth annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program, sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine*, recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

The 2013 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Guam, in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business* May/June issue. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. ***(PR)***

IT&E is arts festival's latest 'Pacifica' sponsor

CLARISSA V. DAVID

IT&E CNMI marketing manager Hans Mickelson (standing, fourth left) product manager Veronica Acosta, and marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala present their cash and in-kind contribution worth $5,000 for the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival to the organizing committee members led by acting secretary Laura T.Ogumoro of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E is the latest corporate sponsor of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

The leading telecommunications company in Micronesia donated a total of $5,000 in cash and in-kind items, making it a "Pacifica" sponsor for the largest outdoor arts event in the Marianas.

Pacifica is a level of sponsorship conferred to companies or individuals that give monetary or in-kind contributions amounting to $5,000 to $9,999.

IT&E CNMI marketing manager Hans Mickelson, product manager Veronica Acosta, and marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala presented the donation to committee members led by acting secretary Laura T. Ogumoro of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture in a ceremony at IT&E's Chalan Laulau office.

"IT&E is happy and pleased to be a major contributor in the annual community event that brings family and friends together for three days of fun and celebration of the arts and culture of the Marianas and Micronesia," said Mickelson.

The 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is slated for April 19 to 21 at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe. Mickelson noted that the event highlights not just the brilliance and creativity of artists but also the uniqueness of the CNMI.

"One of the great things about living in the Northern Marianas is that it is home to different ethnicities and that's something unique and special. This distinction is demonstrated each year at the Flame Tree Arts Festival, where artists converge to showcase the best of the best," Mickelson told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hocog said that IT&E has been a regular corporate sponsor of the Arts Council's signature annual event. That support, he added, is more significant this year as the organizing committee expects delegates from other islands in Micronesia, including Kiribati and Chuuk.

"With the patronage of IT&E in the Flame Tree Arts Festival, the Arts Council continues to provide a platform to further our artistic heritage and traditions," said Hocog.

Hocog and the entire festival committee urged the community to "Be A Part" of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. For more information, visit the Arts Council on Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83.

Ex-convict admits to reckless driving

An ex-convict accused of driving recklessly at the American Memorial Park and assaulting a man who asked him to slow down has pleaded guilty.

Lionel C. Borja, 34, pleaded guilty last week to reckless driving and disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal. The assault and battery charge were dropped.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho released Borja pending his sentencing on April 17.

Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg is counsel for Borja.

According to the plea deal, on Sept. 2, 2012 on Saipan, Borja recklessly operated his vehicle in the American Memorial Park's parking lot. Borja then punched and kicked James Hemley after Hemley shouted at him to slow down. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 04/01/13 Closing Date: 04/15/13*

JVA#13-001: Marketing Specialist III (Japan Market)
Pay Level / Step: 29/01 – 29/08
Annual Salary: $21,506.41 – 30,246.74**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#13-002: Statistics Specialist I
Pay Level / Step: 25/01 – 25/04
Annual Salary: $17,700.92 - $20,484.60**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#13-003: Marketing Specialist II (China Market)
Pay Level / Step: 27/01 – 27/07
Annual Salary: $19,511.46 - $26,131.39**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-095

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROPOSED CHALAN KANOA HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, SAIPAN, CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS. LAURA T. OGUMORO**, ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA AT (670) 664-2574/76, OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID/PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BID/PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-096

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT ON THE STATE INVENTORY SYSTEM, PHASE I, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS. LAURA T. OGUMORO**, ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA AT (670) 664-2574/76, OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2013.**

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/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-097

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSULTING ARCHAELOGIST SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS. LAURA T. OGUMORO**, ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA AT (670) 664-2574/76, OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2013.**

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/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-099

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSULTING HISTORIAN SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS, LAURA T. OGUMORO**, ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA AT (670) 664-2574/76, OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID/PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BID/PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN PREPARATION FOR CEO RECRUITMENT:

CHCC board eyes $30K sole-source contract to find new CEO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may see additional items on its expenditure list if a plan to ink a sole-source headhunting contract for two key posts at the corporation pushes through.

The board on Friday night invited Frank Gibson, owner and sole proprietor of HR Support CNMI, to provide input on how his team can provide "meaningful assistance" to the corporation in the event the board decides to start the recruitment process for two key positions: chief executive officer and chief financial officer.

Gibson's presence at the Friday board meeting came about after trustee Anthony Raho was instructed by the board to contact an expert who will help the corporation in its effort to bring in qualified candidates for CEO.

CEO Juan N. Babauta's contract is expiring on July 9. The board recently recommended not renewing his contract. The final decision lies with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who may either concur or reject the advisory board's recommendation.

If a contract is secured with the corporation, Gibson plans to set up a team of experts to help him do the job, which include, among other tasks, developing the job description and scope of work and advertising the positions here and off-island.

Gibson disclosed that the service fee is about $30,000 with a target completion of six months. He pointed out, however, that costs associated with the process, including advertisements, are not included in this amount.

Gibson said the corporation has to verify first with the Office of the Attorney General and the CNMI Procurement Office if it is permissible to grant a sole-source contract for this purpose.

When asked by trustees if he is willing to assist the corporation if the contract is authorized, Gibson said yes.

According to board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, the CEO for the hospital is a unique position that requires certain qualifications and expertise.

"You can't just pick up a regular accountant and place that [person] on the job…[because] this is a specialized job," he told fellow trustees, responding to concerns that the board should not be involved in the hiring process of employees.

Board chair Joaquin Torres told Gibson that he will be contacted as soon as the board makes a decision. Torres said some questions need to be answered before a decision is made on the recruitment, including the question of funding and whether Inos will support the board's recommendation.

Last Friday, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare chair Sen. Jack Borja, along with Senate vice president Victor Hocog, appealed to the board for Babauta's retention. The request, they said, is the position of both the House and Senate health committees.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Christopher A. Concepcion, second from left, and Esther Sound, center, present to Rotary Club of Saipan officers $1,000 worth of travel vouchers in support of the club's 2013 Parade of Books event. In photo are, from left to right, Rotary secretary Richard Cody, president Pete Shilling, and vice president Laila Boyer.

Delta backs Parade of Books with donation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delta Air Lines yesterday donated $1,000 worth of travel vouchers to the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Sales and marketing representatives Christopher A. Concepcion and Esther Sound presented the donation in support of the 2013 Parade of Books.

Concepcion said that Delta Air Lines has been a contributor to the club's annual competition, which aims to encourage literacy and creativity among elementary students in a fun and innovative way.

"We support children's education in the CNMI and we appreciate their efforts to promote literacy amongst the youth," Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune*.

While Delta Air Lines usually donates cash, Concepcion said they are just pleased to continue their support in a "different way" by donating the travel vouchers.

"We wish Rotary Club of Saipan good luck on their event. We'll be there to show our support," he added.

The 2013 Parade of Books will be held at 2pm on Saturday, April 13, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Eight public and private elementary schools will present their interpretation of their chosen books based on this year's theme, "Legends and Myths of the Marianas and Micronesia."

Participating teams will have a chance to win $1,000 for first place, $750 for second place, $500 for third place, $300 for fourth place, $200 for fifth place, and $100 as consolation prizes.

For more information about Parade of Books, email reinacamacho@gmail.com or saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Registration for ukulele classes extended

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has extended the registration for the next round of after-school ukulele classes until today.

Library associate Erlinda C. Naputi said yesterday that the deadline extension is meant to give interested parents enough time to allot money to enroll their children.

Naputi said in an interview that they received a lot of inquiries regarding the ukulele classes, which will be held every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm from April 11 to May 30.

"But unless they come in and register, then we cannot consider them officially part of the classes," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

JKPL has two types of classes, beginner and intermediate, and both will be conducted by musician Larry Lee.

Naputi revealed that some 10 individuals have already signed up for the beginner's class while seven have registered for the intermediate class.

She emphasized that they would need at least 15 students per class to move forward with the second round of ukulele classes.

Enrollees must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets. Parents and guardians will have to sign a liability waiver form as well.

For more information, visit JKPL in Susupe or call 235-7316/7322/7323 or fax 235-7550.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPW/ED-101

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER APRIL 04, 2013 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISION OF ENERCY (EECBG) LOCATED AT THE SPRING DEVELOPMENT PLAZA OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp OR FAXED TO (670) 664-4488 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON APRIL 19, 2013. The Contracting Officer will respond to all written inquiries within 5 business days or by April 26, 2013.**

THE COMMONWEALTH WILL ALLOW AND ACCEPT ELECTRONIC BIDDING FROM ALL BIDDERS. FOR ON ISLAND BIDDERS, HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED. ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS MUST BE E-MAILED TO **procurement@pticom.com** AND MUST BE RECOVERED NO LATER THAN **10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, MAY 06, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VICENTE S. ATTAO
ACTING DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of FRANCISCA CAMACHO KEREMIUS, Deceased.	]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0079** **NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bernard Francis Keremius has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Francisca Camacho Keremius, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Francisca Camacho Keremius, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the clerk of this court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, attorney for Petitioner. All claims no so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: April 04, 2013

/s/ Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms,
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, **vs. YVONNE A. ATALIG and GODEL OMENGEBAR,** Defendants.	]]]]]]]]]	**Civil Action No. 10-0254**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONFIRM SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust in this matter has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 17th day of April, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Naraja in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2013.

/s /CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, **-v- DIEGO A. SASAMOTO and ANICIA S. SASAMOTO,** Defendants.	]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0261** **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 736, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Bank of Guam named MMAC title sponsor

Bank of Guam has been named the latest title sponsor of the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer. Title sponsorship is the highest level of sponsorship of the MMAC and is conferred on companies that donate $3000 or more in cash or services.

"On behalf of the 2013 MMAC committee, we extend our utmost appreciation to the Bank of Guam for their $3,000 donation. We value their support in the battle against cancer," said 2013 MMAC overall committee chair Manny Borja.

"So far we have eight title sponsors and eight major sponsors and we are always looking for more. If you are interested in supporting the fight against cancer by becoming a title, major, or contributing sponsor please contact MMAC 2013 sponsorship committee chairwoman Reina Camacho at 989-7346 or email reinacamacho@gmail.com for more information," said Borja.

The MMAC is the largest cancer fundraising activity in the CNMI. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient support services, and other cancer-related activities.

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. 2013 MMAC's title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/ FHP. Its major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, Hopwood Junior High School, McDonald's of Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., and Xerox Corporation.

For more information call 989-1987, email emanuel.borja@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

MMAC team meeting on Thursday

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team captains' meeting on Thursday, April 11, beginning at 5:30pm at the DFS Saipan Ltd. conference room in Garapan (second floor).

"We invite all team captains or their representatives to attend this important meeting. We have about two weeks left before the MMAC so we encourage everyone to attend," said 2013 MMAC team recruitment chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

The MMAC is the largest cancer fundraising activity in the CNMI. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit 501(c)3 organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient support services and other cancer-related activities. The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. ***(PR)***

SPC secures life-saving drugs for HIV-positive people

SUVA, Fiji—The Public Health Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in partnership with the Pacific Islands HIV and STI Response Fund has secured continuity of access to antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for Pacific Islanders, beginning in July 2013. The new agreement ensures that Pacific Islanders living with HIV have uninterrupted access to life-saving drugs, despite recent global and regional cuts in funding for HIV and AIDS.

The cost of the ARVs will be borne by the Response Fund, supported by the Australian and New Zealand Aid Programmes, together with a $100,000 contribution from SPC.

'This agreement gives people living with HIV peace of mind, as we pursue the continuation of programming on HIV and other STIs in the Pacific', said Dr Dennie Iniakwala, HIV and STI Team Leader at SPC.

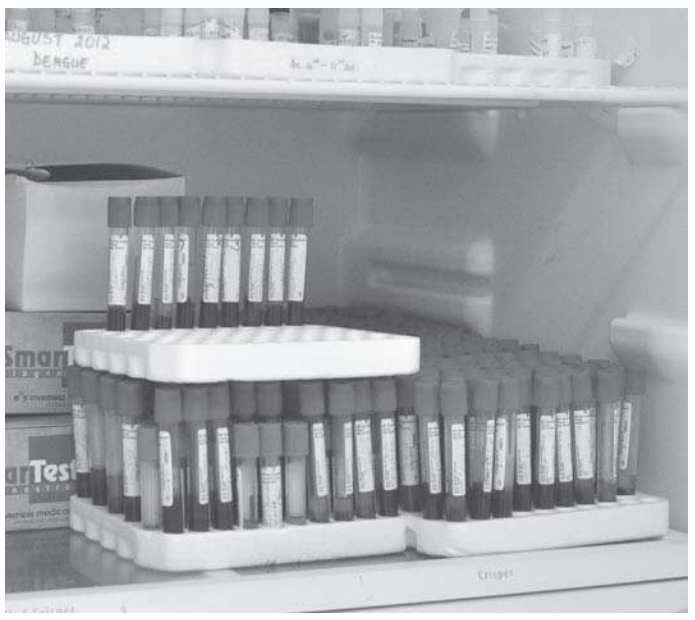
ARVs stop the multiplication of HIV and the progression of the disease, prolonging life. But to be effective, People Living with HIV (PLHIV) must adhere to treatment. It is therefore essential that PLHIV currently receiving treatment are able to maintain access to ARV drugs, and that any PLHIV eligible for antiretroviral therapy receive it.

'SPC has negotiated ongoing access to ARVs by PLHIV for 18 months from July 2013. This provides a window of opportunity to secure longer term and sustained supply of these essential drugs,' said Dr Iniakwala.

Since 2004, over $330,000 has been spent on ARVs for Pacific people living with HIV by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a grant managed by SPC that is due to close in June 2013.

Regional consultations were held with Pacific HIV/ STI and reproductive health managers in Fiji and Guam late last month, as part of the effort to develop the next five year regional strategy for HIV and other STIs in the Pacific.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS estimates that in 2012 there were up to 60,000 people living with HIV in the Pacific region, including in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. ***(SPC)***



SPC

Blood samples after HIV testing, Yap State Hospital Laboratory, Federated States of Micronesia.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy training at Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 April 12 from 10am to 10pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Half-day today at Kagman High

Kagman High School students will be released at 12pm today and next week Thursday, April 18, 2013. KHS teachers and staff will be having an accreditation session this month. ***(PR)***

EAM events for the week

April is Environmental Awareness Month! Come join in on this week's events!

■ **Host a film festival:** Any community group, school or other organization can sponsor a showing (free of charge) of one of 20+ environmental documentaries. For a complete list of films, and to coordinate a screening, contact Kaity Mattos at kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp.

■ **Saturday, April 13, 8am, Banzai Trail – Bird Walk and Invasive Species Removal with Micronesia Bird Conservation:** Come learn how to identify our native birds and keep their habitat healthy with Micronesica Bird Conservation. Meet at Last Command Post at 8 am on Saturday morning. For more information please contact Shelly Kremer at shellykremer@deq.gov.mp.

■ **Go Native Tree Planting on Saturday, April 13:** Does your community group want to plant native trees in your village, at your community center, church, local park, etc? Contact Jihan Buniag atjihanbuniag@deq.gov.mp or Yubert Alepuyo at yubertalepuyo@deq.gov.mp to set up your event!

EAM contests

■ **Trash In Fashion Show**, April 25 at the Hard Rock Cafe. High school students will design and craft original high-fashion clothing entirely out of recycled material. Contact Olivia Tebuteb Tenorio at 664-8500.

■ **Recycled Boat Race**, April 20: Mke a boat out of recycled materials and get it (in one piece with at least one passenger) across the finish line at Kilili Beach. Contact Cal Westergard at calwestergard@deq.gov.mp.

■ **CRM's 'Where Does Trash Go?' photo competition**: Take your cameras and phones on a mission to answer the question, where does trash go? Submit up to three photos in this year's Environmental Awareness Month's digital photo contest (deadline April 26). All ages are welcome to compete for great prizes! Submit your entries to Coastal Resources Management or e-mail them to nicole.schafer@crmsaipan.com.

■ **Our Laolao photo competition**: Details on the Our Laolao Facebook, entries due April 19! https://www.facebook.com/OurLaolao. Or contact Rachelle Muna at rachellemuna@gmail.com.

For general information about Environmental Awareness Month, contact Avra Heller at avrahellerdeq@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 20, 2006

Chuukese welcome ruling on deportation

Most of the Chuukese staying on Saipan welcome Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman's recent decision stating that citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are subject to immigration laws of the CNMI and therefore can be deported. Neftis S. Sablan, one of the advisors of the Chuukese Catholic Youth Association, said the court's ruling would serve as a lesson to some FSM citizens who have been doing "crazy things around here." "I think it's good for them to be deported," said Sablan in an interview with the Saipan Tribune after their group completed a trashathon Saturday from Mt. Carmel Church in Chalan Kanoa to Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. She said the court ruling actually has caused mixed feelings to her.

Garment exports and user fee collections drop to Feb. '95 levels

Saipan garment exports, as well as user fee collections from the apparel industry have decreased to levels of a decade ago, according to the Governor's Office. Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations, reported that sales for March 2006 totaled only $37.3 million, with user fee collections netting only $1.382 million in revenue. "The collections have not been as small since February 1995," Pierce said. In March 2006, the CNMI Division of Customs Services issued 1,141 certificates of origins for export from Saipan's 17 factories, with a total of 5,680,900 units of production sent to department and retail stores in the mainland United States.

April 20, 2007

CUC closes first phase of privatization

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has closed the pre-qualification phase of its power business privatization plan even as at least four firms asked for another delay to give them more time to put together their technical and financial documents. The original deadline for the companies to submit documents if they wish to seek pre-qualification was March 12, 2007. CUC extended the deadline to April 2, 2007 because a number of companies that wished to enter the pre-qualification requested for additional time. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the deadline was again moved to April 4 because of the typhoon. Mathis said there is no further extension.

New fishing venture pushes ahead

A commercial fishing company has pursued its project despite an earlier debacle with the Commonwealth Development Authority. Courtney Zietzke, president of Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc., which recently began its operations on Rota and Saipan, said that Bank of Guam and CDA had rejected its loan guarantee application. "We were very surprised to learn that a local CNMI bank and the CDA chose not to support a locally based project that would employ local people. That was a very sad day! Our collateral and our business plans were very sound," said Zietzke in a recent e-mail. The company was applying for a $600,000 worth of loan guarantee with CDA, which would cover 30 percent of its proposed investment in the fishing business.

April 20, 2008

DPS to lose 32 personnel

The Department of Public Safety will lose at least 32 of its police and fire personnel to a possible deployment in Kuwait. The initial count of DPS personnel who have received the Army Reserve's call to active duty represents nearly 20 percent of the police and fire workforce on Saipan. The Army reservists are expecting to ship out in August 2008. "This deployment call will put a manpower drain in our police and fire workforce," acting Commissioner Clyde K. Norita told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a letter.

Bus stop vandalism a perennial scourge

The Public School System bus stops-concrete tin-roofed sheds that are usually painted a bright yellow-have become perennial targets of hooligans, who not only festoon the structure with graffiti but also subject them to various acts of vandalism. The issue has prompted the Public School System pupil transportation division to air its concerns, particularly since it believes that the vandalism is being done by students themselves, who often linger at the bus stops before and after school. PSS bus team leader Steven M. Pangelinan said that one of the biggest problem the pupil transportation division is facing is the vandalism and graffiti at bus stops that never cease.

N.Korea attack would be suicide: Guam residents

By MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

HAGATNA (AFP)—Guam resident Gina Tabonares-Reilly refuses to let North Korea's apocalyptic threats against her island home disrupt daily life, saying it would be "suicide" for Pyongyang to launch an attack.

Like many in the US territory in the western Pacific, she remains more concerned about the danger posed by the typhoons that regularly lash the island than the prospect of a missile strike from the hermit state.

"At home, we discuss it from time to time but we are not making any preparations because we know that it's just sabre rattling," the 45-year-old told AFP.

"There are good enough missile interceptors underneath our waters... North Korea knows that and they are smart (enough) not to commit suicide."

Guam has been targeted in North Korea's recent bellicose statements because it is home to some 6,000 US military personnel, including Marines, submariners and bomber crews.

Located about 3,380 kilometres (2,100 miles) southeast of North Korea, the island of 180,000 people is also theoretically in range of Pyongyang's Musudan missiles, although it remains unclear whether the weapons actually work.

Guam's Department of Homeland Security has described the likelihood of an attack as remote, noting that the island "is protected by the greatest nation and military in the world, the United States of America".

As a precaution though, it launched a campaign this week urging residents to prepare emergency supply kits and family disaster plans.

Governor Eddie Calvo said last week that he was concerned North Korea might get "one lucky shot" if it launched a strike but said the threat was not causing panic in Guam, the scene of fierce fighting in World War II.

The business-as-usual attitude was in evidence last Sunday, when the Guam International Marathon was staged alongside the white sands of Tumon Bay, attracting more than 2,000 runners.

Chito de Guzman, marketing and promotions manager for the Guam Reef Hotel, said North Korea's menacing talk had not impacted on international visitor numbers.

"It doesn't seem to affect tourism," he said. "We don't see any booking cancellations and there is no travel advisory from Japan, (South) Korea or China against coming to Guam."

However, islanders constantly monitor the news to follow developments and convenience store owner Rubyjane Buhain-Redilla admitted to some anxiety about how the crisis will unfold.

"Thankfully, this has not affected my daily life," she said. "I haven't exactly made any preparations. I live right across from my store that has everything I need should I come face to face with violent disaster."

Buhain-Redilla said her main fear was the erratic nature of North Korea's young new leader Kim Jong-Un.

"With no clear concept of reality and no experience on international affairs, who knows what this kid is capable of doing?" she said.

"Can you imagine the power trip, the anxiety and pressure this kid has? He is like a walking time bomb, ready to be switched on at any time."

Joseph Meyers from Mangilao, on the island's east coast, said his main concern was not a direct missile strike but a blunder brought about by Pyongyang's brinkmanship that could spark a conflict that would engulf Guam.

"I think the chances of any attack on Guam from North Korea are very remote," he said. "The biggest danger is a miscalculation or an accidental escalation from either side that may result in an all-out war."

Bordallo visits Guam Guardsmen prepping to deploy to Afghanistan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) joins more than 600 men and women from the Guam Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 294th (1-294th) Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, during her recent congressional delegation to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. She also presented them with a Guam flag to bring with them to Afghanistan.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) recently returned from a congressional delegation to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to meet with more than 600 soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard who are training for a deployment to Afghanistan. The congresswoman met with the Guardsmen, who are a part of the 1st Battalion, 294th (1-294th) Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, and joined them for lunch, an assembly and dinner. She also received a briefing from 1-294th Commander LTC Michael Tougher.

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with so many of our young men and women from Guam who are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan—the largest deployment of our Guam Guardsmen in history," said Bordallo. "I learned about their preparations and their confidence in being able to carry out and accomplish their missions. Their morale is high and they remain confident in their abilities. I presented them with a Guam flag and expressed to them the pride our entire island community has in them. I will continue to keep these brave men and women in my prayers and I join our island in wishing them, and all our servicemembers who are serving overseas, a safe return home." ***(PR)***

Coast Guard medivacs 2 from A. Samoa

HONOLULU—A U.S. Coast Guard air crew has deployed to assist with the medical evacuation of two injured and ill cruise ship passengers from American Samoa Monday.

A Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane crew from Air Station Barbers Point will meet the two patients in American Samoa and transport them to Honolulu. Medical staff from Kalawao Rescue will provide care during the approximately 10-hour return flight.

The C-130 crew and passengers are scheduled to return to Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point at approximately 9am.

The two passengers suffered injury and illness during unrelated incidents while underway aboard the cruise ship Star Princess. One passenger is a 91-year-old male and the other is an 82-year-old female.

The Coast Guard received notification Monday and the C-130 crew was deployed at 2pm after a Coast Guard flight surgeon determined that the aircrew could conduct transport 48 hours faster and deliver passengers to facilities more capable of meeting their medical needs. ***(U.S. Coast Guard)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy first birthday to our darling angel, Heaven Agnes Maratita Deleon Guerrero! May our good Lord continue to bless & guide you always! Have a ONEderful year princess! To the moon & stars we love you endlessly! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, and your sisters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday big mama, Nana! We love and miss you so very much. Greetings come from Capu and the family!

FHB DONATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy principal Marsha Owens receives a contribution from Victoria B. Concepcion, assistant vice president and branch manager of First Hawaiian Bank, Oleai Branch.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Passengers of size

A story problem: Mary weighs 120 pounds and is traveling with a 12-pound baby, a 30-pound diaper bag and two suitcases with a combined weight of 80 pounds. Dick weighs 155 and hauls a 10-pound duffel. Bob weighs 280 and is dragging a 40-pound wheel-aboard suitcase. How much does each passenger pay for a 1,440-mile flight from Chicago to Phoenix?

Trick question. Everyone knows it depends on how and when they booked their travel, where they're seated on the plane, whether they're entitled to check bags for free and all sorts of mysterious variables. But play along: Wouldn't it make more sense to pay by the pound?

That's how it works on Samoa Air, a tiny commuter carrier that serves the famously corpulent citizens of the Pacific Islands. On the world's first pay-as-you-weigh airline, you (and your luggage) just step on the scale before you board and pay accordingly.

Samoa Air flies three- and nine-passenger prop planes. If you've flown on one of those, you've likely had the disarming experience of watching the pilot rearrange the passengers before takeoff to distribute the load evenly. Can't have all the big people over one wing!

Major airlines don't have that problem. But fuel is their biggest expense, and the heavier the load, the more fuel the plane uses.

A Norwegian economist, writing in last month's *Journal of Revenue and Pricing Management*, makes a good case that a weight-based model is both economically sound and fair. Cargo is priced by weight, after all. Why not people? The economist isn't suggesting everyone would be weighed at check-in at O'Hare. Tickets could be sold for specific weight ranges, for example, or passengers could self-report their weight when they book their flight. Those numbers could be enforced with random weigh-ins at the gate.

Yeah, we're cringing too.

U.S. airlines are wary of offending the customers they delicately call "passengers of size." To stay profitable, they're packing more passengers per flight. That has led to some uncomfortable encounters with customers who are too big to fit between the armrests of the ever-smaller seats.

Some airlines now require plus-size customers to buy a second seat—or risk being turned away at the gate if the flight is full. Angry consumers deride it as a "fat tax." It's discrimination, they say.

Things are more straightforward on Samoa Air. Heavier passengers pay more to ride, but they also get more room. Problem solved.

Charging customers by weight might be awkward, but it's not unreasonable. Airlines have gone to great lengths lately to reduce the weight of their flying metal tubes: lighter seats, lighter beverage carts, lighter carpet, even lighter paint on the outside of the plane. Yet they still charge the same fare to move 242 pounds of Mary, 165 pounds of Dick or 320 pounds of Bob. One trip, one fare.

Why? Because to do otherwise seems somehow, well, undemocratic. Charging by the pound would be perfectly reasonable. But it won't fly here.

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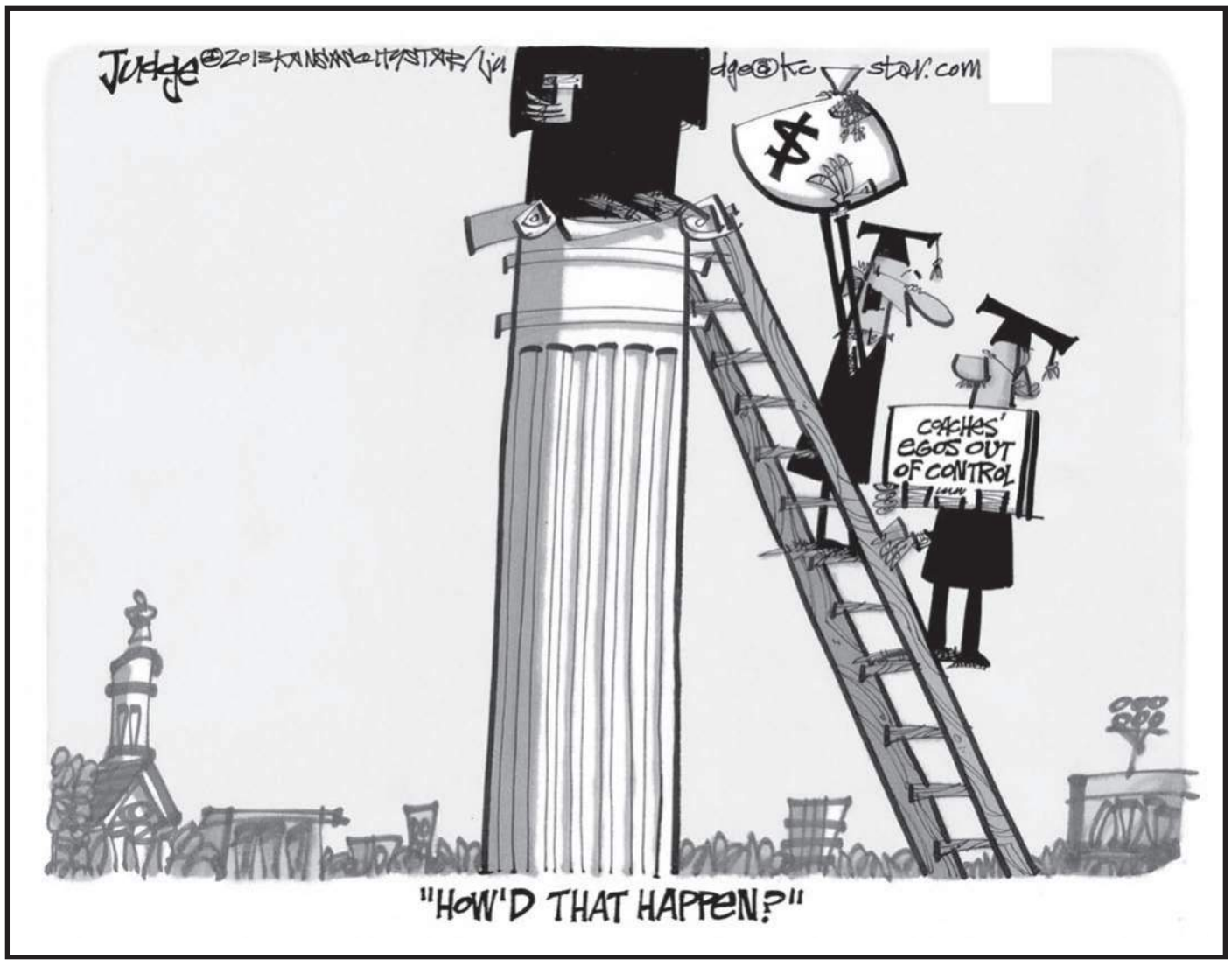


The Iron Lady @ 87

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

She was known as Thatcher, with nicknames like the Milk Snatcher, Maggie, Attila the Hen, and more popularly and rather positively, the Iron Lady.

Margaret Hilda Thatcher, aka Baroness Thatcher née Roberts, was a British politician who became the longest-serving prime minister in the 20th century for the United Kingdom, and the only woman ever to have held the post.

I once had a serious interest in an ambassador of the Philippine Foreign Service who was fond of telling me to act like her Denis Thatcher in public—helpful and invisible. I did, and perhaps, just a tad bit too comically so. She was constrained at the time since I was considered a "foreigner." This was before RA 9225 *aka* the Philippines' Citizenship Retention and Re-Acquisition Act of 2003 that allowed the retention of my Philippine citizenship. Still, I was obviously more of a personal liability than an asset.

But Sir Denis was a faithful "friend" to PM Thatcher and he distinguished himself as the support to the lady that sent troops a thousand miles south to retain sovereignty of South Georgia and Sandwich Islands, then claimed and occupied by Argentine naval forces. Margaret said of Denis: "Being prime minister is a lonely job. In a sense, it ought to be: you cannot lead from the crowd. But with Denis there I was never alone. What a man. What a husband. What a friend."

A decade older than Maggie, Denis went first at 88 in 2003, a year after Maggie had her first series of mild strokes. Almost a decade later, April 8, the Iron Lady followed at 87, thirty-one years and three days since she presided over Great Britain's War Council that prevailed over Argentina's invasion of the Falklands (Malvinas to the Argentines) and the return of South Georgia to Britain's Naval Command. The Falklands incident that solidified the appellation of "Iron Lady" is considered the high point of Margaret's premiership. In kind, the Falklands celebrate Jan. 10 as Thatcher Day!

We will know all about her this week as the majority of the world, always enamored with an iron-willed leader, give homage to a fallen warrior of declining health. Iron-willed, she was; lady, other than an ever well-coiffed blonde hair, she was more often just one of the boys.

She in fact did not care much about public opinion. She was second from the bottom in the opinion polls of prime ministers. But she was adamant that she was to lead as a conviction politician rather than play to the pulse of the crowd. She maintained that stance to the end when her own party tried to oust her from her Tory leadership; she resigned before a final vote was to be taken when it was obvious that her party was split.

She did make the rounds among the royals and governmental heads, gracious in seeking "by your leave"; gave her final speech before parliament, then resigned as prime minister, taking leave in a manner many considered to be very ladylike. She cried.

PM Thatcher is remembered well here in China for initiating the conversation with Deng Xiaoping, first through former prime minister Edward Heath in 1983 that finally led to the return (handover to the international community) of *Xianggang* (Hong Kong) back to *Zhongguo* (China).

She sought at first for an extension of the existing 99-year lease on the New Territories, when she made a state visit to China in 1984, relying on the treaties that ceded Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in perpetuity to the UK. She was unprepared to accept the rejection of those "unfair and unequal" treaties, adhered to since Sun Yat Sen in 1912, and a view shared by the *Guomingtang* (nationalist in Taiwan) and the *Gongchangdang* (CPC) governments. Consequently, HK, Kowloon, and the New Territories reverted back to China in 1997 in a ceremony attended by PM Tony Blair.

Maggie was tenacious and manly (we do not mean this in a pejorative sense) in her convictions, though Argentine veterans of the Malvinas war understandably do not see anything redemptive about the lady and her forceful assertion of British sovereignty over the scattered islands of the Falklands. Of course, we now know that there is oil under them waters!

In a similar vein, Obama-Clinton foreign policy based on the military containment of China and the rattling of sabers (Hillary did show a more feminine Iron Lady) to irritate young Kim Jung Un who is equally intent in flexing his muscles to show he has *kimchee cojones,* plainly stinks of oil. But I view things from Dong Bei, a short distance to the Yalu River, and a colleague thinks we see with a different set of glasses. I would have the same view were I staring at Pagan from Saipan! Some on Guam have raised the insanity of a militarized Western Pacific before. Time for Saipan to articulate its own mind!

Meanwhile, we celebrate the completed life of Margaret Hilda Thatcher. She was one, unique, unrepeatable gift of human life into history. There has never been one like her before, and there will never be another one like her ever again.

We are grateful for life's little favors.

Cancer awareness and prevention

By RUSS MASON, M.S.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, Alternative & Complementary Therapies. *His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.*

There is a lot of anti-cancer activity around Saipan these days. There are marches to raise the levels of cancer awareness, and the CCA is engaging in palliative care for those who are sick and need help. These efforts are worthy and admirable.

But some of these efforts are also, in my humble opinion, misdirected. Yes, by all means, help the people who are sick. Make them feel happier, more comfortable, and less stressed-out.

Now, however, the focus ought to be on prevention, and this is where the local organizations fall short. The prevention of cancer and diabetes is possible, but most of the people in the islands either do not know how to do it, or care to change their lives enough so they won't get sick.

A few weeks ago Rep. Ogumoro proposed legislation that would impose a "sin tax" on cigarettes, alcohol, and soft drinks. Although I do not support the sin tax, it does target substances that either cause, or contribute to, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease.

If the Legislature is truly interested in safeguarding the health of CNMI citizens, then there would be warning labels on white rice, all processed meats (baloney, canned meat, salami, etc.) and any product with sugar.

If there is a single substance that contributes to disease it is fructose (sugar), and it is nearly impossible to avoid.

A little history

In 1700, the average person consumed 4 lbs of sugar per year. By 1800, the amount had swelled to 18 lbs per year; in 1900, 90 lbs of sugar per year.

In 2009, the average person consumed one-half pound of sugar per *day*, or 180 lbs of sugar per year.

Sugar consumption directly correlates to the incidents of cancer and diabetes. Three hundred years ago, hardly anyone had cancer. Now it is one in three people who will contract it. The incidents of cancer increased as the consumption of sugar increased.

Today, baby formula has the same amount of sugar as a can of cola. Babies are being metabolically poisoned, because most people assume the formula is safe. It is not.

In 1893, there were fewer than three cases of diabetes per 100,000 people in the United States. Today, diabetes strikes almost 8,000 out of 100,000 people, and I think the ratio is greater here in the CNMI.

Not all sugars are created equal

Your body was designed to run on glucose; every cell, ever bacterium, every living thing on earth, requires glucose for energy. (Mercola.com)

But now, instead of getting glucose, we are bombarded with fructose, which is a dangerous form of sugar. Fructose feeds cancer cells, contributes to weight gain, and promotes premature aging. Your body metabolizes fructose differently than glucose, and it puts a strain on the liver.

Most people consume fructose in enormous quantities, which has made its negative effects more profound. High fructose corn syrup can be found in thousands of food products, such as soft drinks, candy, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, donuts, and other products we all have learned to love.

As well, fructose contributes to obesity in all forms and this contributes to a variety of heath concerns: diabetes is No. 1 but also high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

I do not mean to suggest that fructose is all bad, but it's the vast amount that people consume that poses a risk. If you have a favorite cola, drink it once a week, not every day.

Simple suggestion: before you put something into your grocery basket, read the label. If it says "high fructose corn syrup" put it back, and see if you can find a substitute.

When I make spaghetti sauce, I get a can of whole tomatoes (around $1). I fry some garlic in olive oil, and add the can of whole tomatoes. Then I chop them up in the pan while it is cooking. This is a really tasty sauce, and it is fructose-free. You can always add tomato paste if you want the sauce thicker—but, again, check the label to make sure you're just getting a tomato product (which will have some natural sugars).

To find out more about the dangers of fructose, watch the YouTube video, "Sugar: the Bitter Truth" or visit Mercola.com and see what Dr. Mercola has to say.

Last, avoid all artificial sweeteners, or products with aspartame. They pose a grave health risk to all who consume them. This includes most "diet" drinks. If you are in doubt, Google "Aspartame dangers." Your jaw will drop.

The dangers of white rice

Eating white rice increases your risk of diabetes. In August 2010, a newsletter from the National Institutes of Health (part of the Department of U.S. Health and Human Services) stated, "A new studied followed 200,000 people for 22 years. The people who ate 5 services of white rice per week had a 17 percent higher risk of diabetes than those who ate white rice less than once a month."

However, those who ate brown rice had an 11 percent lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Eating brown rice is obviously healthier for you and your kids.

Also white rice, a simple carbohydrate, breaks down into simple sugars before it enters the bloodstream. As I have stated, sugar in almost all forms is no good for you. However, brown rice is a complex carbohydrate, and is far safer to eat.

The dangers of processed meat

According to a report last month in *The Guardian*, people who consume processed meat are 44 percent more likely to die prematurely. Eating processed meat also contributes to cancers (bowel and prostate) and cardiovascular disease. These meats have high amounts of salt and fat, and fairly low amounts of necessary vitamins or minerals.

Processed meat includes bacon, ham, sausages, baloney, meat-in-a-can (you know what that is), salami, pepperoni, and the jerky-type snacks.

It is far better to eat lean red meat (such as beef or pork), chicken or seafood. If you eat the real thing, and not processed meat, you will be safeguarding your health and your kids' health also. Eggs are also an excellent alternative to processed meat.

To sum up

If you eat canned meat, with white rice, and drink a cola at one meal, you are not only poisoning yourself, you are increasing your risk of cancer, diabetes, obesity, and a premature death. Over time, it will bring you to your knees and your friends will be at the Microl corner, holding signs, so that you can get a medical referral.

This is the message that the anti-cancer organizations need to take to the community. Forget "cancer awareness"—everyone with half a brain knows about cancer: a friend or a relative has either died of it or has it. Prevention must take the focus now.

Do not take my word for it; do your own research. Visit Google and the YouTube videos I mentioned above. Visit Dr. Mercola's site and see what he has to say. Visit Livestrong.com and WebMD.com. There are many wonderful sites, full of helpful information. Continue your search for knowledge.

If you discover the facts for yourself, they will have more meaning and impact. Search for "sugar and cancer" or "white rice and cancer" or "processed meat and cancer." If your kids are old enough to do a Google search with you, this can be a wonderfully beneficial and educational project to research together.

I was in a store one day and a lady in front of me was buying one of the cancer-causing products I mentioned. She was a total stranger but I said to her, "That stuff will kill you." She smiled and said, "I know."

There appears to be a perverse fatalism here. People know the stuff they eat is bad for them, but they would rather die than give up the things they like. Well, fine. But please don't poison your kids too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Junior and senior high school poetry contest

Micronesian Youth Services is an organization to support, collaborate, coordinate, promote, and strengthen youth programs and services throughout Micronesia. Our vision is for youth, families, leaders, and communities to take a positive role in issues that impact our lives today for a better tomorrow. We are searching for a winner for this year's poetry contest. The theme for 2013 MYSN Conference is "Pursue, Cultivate, and Sustain a Balance."

There are many pressing issues that concern the Youth of the CNMI. A few of these issues are Bullying (esp. Cyber bullying), Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse/Assault, Underage Drinking, Teen pregnancy, Drug Usage and Trafficking, Child Abuse, Neglect, Suicide/Self-Inflicted Injury, Peer Pressure, Anger Management, Safety, Health and Wellness. These issues have been troubling our youth, as well as our community. You can select to write a 12 stanza/line poem on these topics:

- Choice A: What are the three main issues that negatively impact the youth, and how can they be prevented?
- Choice B: These problems are a huge threat to our community, we need help now! Explain how we can reach out to the community and what steps shall we take towards a brighter future.
- Choice C: Personal Experience: Describe a time in which you or someone you knew were in a situation and explain how you helped yourself or helped that someone. Describe what you learned, and what options or alternatives you can give to people who go through a similar situation.

We are aiming for the youths of the CNMI to take action. Speak your concern, and we will listen. The winners of the contest will be given an opportunity to speak for the CNMI in our conference that will be held on April 18-19, 2013 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa. Aside from this event, participants who choose to write a poem will be able to showcase their work at the Multi-Purpose Center on April 11, 2013, during our 1st annual MYSN Poetry Slam at 5pm. Participants may turn in their poem to Viola Deleon Guerrero at the Motheread/Fatheread Office at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library or email CNMI.MYSN@gmail.com or francessablan@gmail.com no later than April 8, 2013. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Viola Deleon Guerrero at 235-7319 or me at 287-3549.

Frances M. Sablan
Chairwoman, MYSN 2013 Conference Steering Committee

No more exodus

As I landed on Saipan, I was very happy to be at home at last and there is no place like home. I started my first night on Saipan at the Kagman Villages and I was not aware of the economic devastation that I was about to witness the next day.

Since I am an early-bird person, I woke up between 3am and 4am the next morning and took my morning walk. As the sun rose from the east, I came across houses that have been abandoned. I was stunned that every other house throughout Kagman is being abandoned by our local population. Houses that seem well built and houses that were hastily built have become victims of the major exodus of our local population for greener pastures in the U.S. mainland. The fastest growing village in our island chain had become a victim of the world economic downturn and I wonder how far our people can endure such economic hardship?

That very afternoon, I started looking into records on how many of our local population took the highway to better their lives and I was dumbfounded to learn that many of our locals have ended up in Guam. The CNMI descent population in Guam is so large that a CNMI descent in Guam can win a Senate seat if the entire CNMI population forms a political coalition. The potential revenue that could have been generated by our former CNMI residents have disappeared into the thin air. The money that they used to earn in the CNMI that circulates in our economy in the form of taxes, paying services, and buying products is no longer a factor in our economy.

This reminded me of Stockton, Calif., which recently filed for bankruptcy protection from its creditors. Stockton public services such as the police suffered the most. There was a gunfight between two gang groups near our home and our neighbor called the Stockton Police Department to report the incident. The police arrived at the scene three hours later. We decided to move to another city as our lives were being jeopardized by the lack of funding in Stockton. I feel sorry for the residents of Stockton who have no resources to move to a better city that provides decent public services.

To our dearest leaders throughout our island chain and to our local population, let us nurture the very people who pay taxes, pay for services, pay for their housing and who perform the actual services to our society each and every day in our lives. There are the ones who are keeping our economy going and we can't afford to have them disappear into thin air like the rest of our population that decided to find a better life elsewhere. We as a society cannot tolerate any more major exodus among those who contribute to our economic existence or we will end up like Stockton.

Segundo Castro
Marpo Valley, Tinian

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly clear. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°

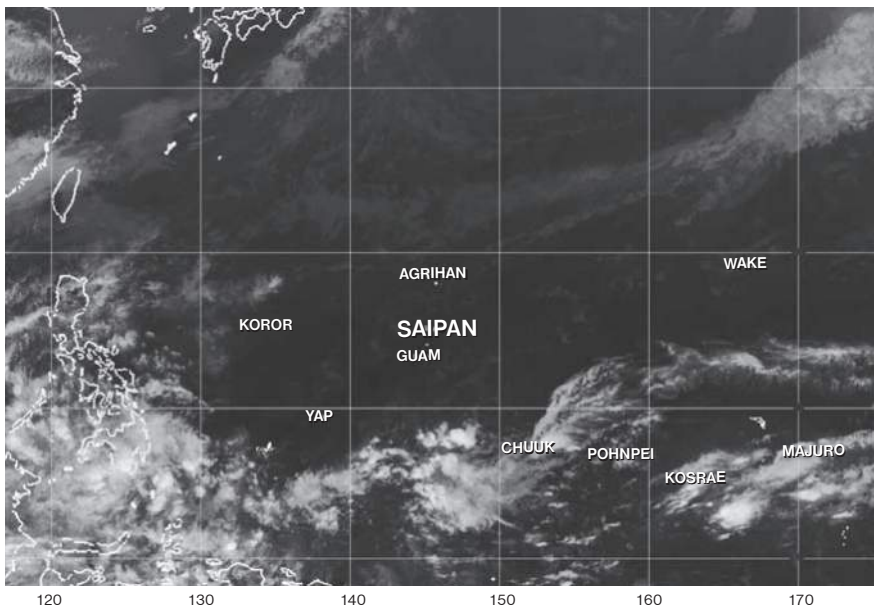
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲63	▼40
Hong Kong	Showers	▲66	▼64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼46
Paris	Showers	▲56	▼48
Pusan	Windy	▲60	▼43
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲55	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲53	▼37
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼45
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to beyond 130E at 16N. Clouds and patchy rain are along and up to 150 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough southeast of Koror runs from 3N135E to 6N141E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 75 miles of the trough axis. Showers are also widely scattered to the southwest of Koror. A trade-wind disturbance southwest of Chuuk is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 145E to 151E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from Kosrae across the Marshall Islands between 2N and 8N from 162E to 177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:40 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	7:06 AM	8:05 PM
Saturday	7:50 AM	8:56 PM
Sunday	8:36 AM	9:46 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

ADB warns of risks to developing Asia's rebound

HONG KONG (AP)—Economic growth in developing Asia is picking up, underpinned by China's rebound and strength in countries such as Indonesia, the Asian Development Bank said in a report Tuesday, while warning that political disputes pose an increased threat to growth.

The Manila-based lender's 2013 Asian Development Outlook said some big dangers to regional growth have faded, such as the possibility of the euro common currency breaking up or a "U.S. fiscal shock" stemming from brinkmanship over the debt ceiling in the world's biggest economy.

But it said that "political risks are emerging as the main threats to the region's continued robust growth." Political disputes are "calling into question the ability of authorities to find compromise solutions to nagging fiscal problems in the US, deepening austerity fatigue in the euro area and simmering border disputes in Asia."

Over the past year, several Asia nations have been roiled by territorial disputes, including a high-profile row between China and Japan over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

The ADB said developing Asia, which includes giant emerging economies such as China, India and Indonesia, will expand 6.6 percent this year, unchanged from its previous forecast in December. Growth is forecast to inch higher to 6.7 percent in 2014. The region grew 6.1 percent in 2012,

Developing Asia includes 45 developing or newly industrialized countries in Asia and the Pacific but excludes Japan.

The ADB said inflation would tick higher but would be kept in check, with consumer prices rising by 4 percent this year and 4.2 percent in 2014, up from 3.7 percent in 2012. The report warned policymakers to keep an eye on rising prices because as growing factory output eliminates slack in production capacity, "loose monetary policy risks reigniting inflation."

Report: Virgin America best US airline in 2012

WASHINGTON (AP)—Virgin America did the best job for its customers among leading U.S. airlines last year, a report said Monday, as carriers overall had their second best performance in the more than the two decades since researchers began measuring quality of service.

The report ranked the 14 largest U.S. airlines based on on-time arrivals, mishandled bags, consumer complaints and passengers who bought tickets but were turned away because flights were over booked.

Airline performance in 2012 was the second highest in the 23 years that Wichita State University in Kansas and Purdue University in Indiana have tracked the performance of airlines. The airline's best year was 2011.

Besides being the overall leader, Virgin America, headquartered in Burlingame, Calif., also did the best job on baggage handling and had the second-lowest rate of passengers denied seats due to overbookings. United Airlines, whose consumer complaint rate nearly doubled last year, had the worst performance. United has merged with Continental Airlines, but has had rough spots in integrating the operations of the two carriers.

This is the first year Virgin America, created in 2007, has been large enough to be included in the rankings. United carries roughly 18 times more passengers than Virgin America, and has 702 planes, compared to 52 for the smaller carrier.

The number of complaints consumers filed with the Department of Transportation overall surged by one-fifth last year to 11,445 complaints, up from 9,414 in 2011.

"Over the 20-some year history we've looked at it, this is still the best time of airline performance we've ever seen," said Dean Headley, a business professor at Wichita State University in Kansas, who has co-written the annual report. The best year was 2011, which was only slightly better than last year, he said.

Despite those improvements, it's not surprising that passengers are getting grumpier, Headley said. Carriers keep shrinking the size of seats in order to stuff more people into planes. Empty middle seats that might provide a little more room have vanished. And more people who have bought tickets are being turned away because flights are overbooked.

DEMO FLIGHT AP

A Boeing-owned 787 production plane built for LOT Polish Airlines lands after a demonstration flight meant to be the final certification test for the 787's new battery system at Paine Field in Everett, Wash., Friday, April 5, 2013. Boeing called the flight "the final certification test for the new battery system." The next step will be for the Federal Aviation Administration to decide whether Boeing's battery fix is good enough for airlines to safely fly it again. The test was "to demonstrate that the new system performs as intended during normal and non-normal flight conditions," Boeing spokesman Marc Birtel said. The 787 Dreamliner has been grounded since mid-January because of smoldering batteries, including a fire on the ground in Boston. Boeing has designed what it says is a fix, including more heat insulation and a battery box designed so that any meltdown of the lithium-ion battery will vent the hot gases outside of the plane.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China's March inflation eases to 2.1 percent

BEIJING (AP)—China's inflation declined in March, easing pressure on consumers but fueling questions about the strength of recovery in the world's second-biggest economy. Government data Tuesday showed consumer prices rose 2.1 percent, down from the previous month's 3.2 percent and well below the official target of 3.5 percent for the year. Wholesale prices declined by 1.9 percent compared with last year. Mixed data show the world's second-largest economy is limping out of its deepest slump since the 2008 global crisis but more slowly than Chinese leaders want. Analysts say the rebound could be vulnerable to a downturn in investment or trade. Economic growth rose to 7.9 percent in the three months ending in December, up from the previous quarter's 7.4 percent. Analysts say the recovery is being propped up by government spending and bank lending, while consumer spending is growing slowly.

Ford says Focus is best-selling car the world

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. says its Focus small car was the best-selling vehicle nameplate in the world last year, with just over 1 million sold. More than a quarter of all Focuses were sold in China, its largest market. The U.S. was the car's second-largest market. It was the second year in a row the Focus has outsold the Toyota Corolla, according to data from automotive firm R.L. Polk. Rounding out the top five sellers were Ford's F-Series pickup, the Wuling Zhiguang minivan and the Toyota Camry midsize car. Polk counts vehicles by nameplate, so versions of the Corolla sold under different names aren't counted. Toyota says if its Matrix hatchback and other Corolla variants are included, it outsold the Focus by 186,000 vehicles.

Bernanke notes 'stress tests' show stronger banks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve's annual "stress tests" of major U.S. banks have become better able to detect risks, Chairman Ben Bernanke said Monday night. He said the tests show that the banking industry has grown much healthier since the financial crisis. Speaking in Atlanta, Bernanke noted that this year's tests showed that 18 of the biggest banks had collectively doubled the cushions they hold against losses since the first tests were run in 2009. He says the tests are providing vital information to regulators. The latest test results were released last month. They showed that all but one of the 18 banks were better prepared to withstand a severe U.S. recession and an upheaval in financial markets. The tests are used to determine whether the banks can increase dividends or repurchase shares.

Rising China 'benefits world'—Xi

By DING QINGFEN
CHINA DAILY

BOAO, Hainan—A growing China will benefit Asia and the world, President Xi Jinping said on Sunday, delivering what analysts called a positive message amid the lingering global economic slowdown.

Xi

"The bigger the growth China achieves, the more opportunities the whole world can get," he said.

Xi made the remark on Sunday during his keynote speech at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013.

The country is expected to make overseas investments of $500 billion and import goods worth $10 trillion in the next five years, and its people will make 400 million trips abroad, Xi said at the three-day forum that opened on Saturday.

China outperformed many countries amid the global slowdown, despite its economic expansion hitting a 13-year low of 7.8 percent in 2012, as the European debt crisis dampened demand for Chinese shipments.

China has set an economic growth target of 7.5 percent for 2013.

In its 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15), it vowed to shift its growth model toward domestic consumption, as shrinking world demand for Chinese goods hurt exports.

China's growth is injecting vitality into the development of Asia, and it is also acting as an engine to the world economy, Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah said during the opening ceremony.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen agreed by saying that China's economic rise and rapid growth have helped the Association of Southeast Asian Nations get out of its economic crisis.

China's economic growth benefits other regions and countries worldwide, he said.

China became the world's largest exporter in 2009 and overtook the United States as the world's largest trader last year.

China aims to double its GDP and per capita income by 2020 from 2010 levels.

Despite the drop in foreign direct investment globally, China's outbound direct investment has been rising since the 2008-09 financial crisis, and it is the world's fifth-largest investor.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,613.48	1,563.07	3,222.25
+48.23	+9.79	+18.39
+0.33%	+0.63%	+0.57%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9586	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7633	Philippine Peso	41.245
British Pound	0.6549	Indian Rupee	54.4525	Singapore Dollar	1.2399
Canadian Dollar	1.0166	Indonesian Rupiah	9748	South Korean Won	1138.09
Chinese Yuan	6.2029	Japanese Yen	99.2125	Swiss Franc	0.934
Euro	0.7669	New Zealand Dollar	1.1776	Thailand Baht	28.96

Nation

Obama says he's 'determined as ever' for gun bill

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—With time running out on the chance to pass gun control legislation, President Barack Obama on Monday warned Congress not to use delaying tactics against tighter regulations and told families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims that he's "determined as ever" to honor their children with tougher laws.

Obama's gun control proposals have run into resistance on Capitol Hill, leaving their fate in doubt. Efforts by Senate Democrats to reach compromise with Republicans over expanding required federal background checks have yet to yield an agreement, and conservatives were promising to try blocking the Senate from even beginning debate on gun control legislation.

"The day Newtown happened was the toughest day of my presidency," Obama said. "But I've got to tell you, if we don't respond to this, that'll be a tough day for me too."

Some of the Sandy Hook families are making an attempt to push through the bill. Obama met with them privately before his speech at the University of Hartford Monday evening, then brought 11 family members back to Air Force One for the trip back to Washington. The relatives want to meet with senators who've yet to back the legislation to encourage their support in memory of their loved ones.

"Nothing's going to be more important in making sure that the Congress moves forward this week than hearing from them," Obama said. His eyes teared as he described Nicole Hockley, who lost her 6-year-old son, Dylan, saying how she asks him every night to come to her in her dreams so she can see him again.

Obama

"If there's even one thing we can do to prevent a father from having to bury his child, isn't that worth fighting for?" Obama asked.

Obama's speech was interrupted repeatedly by standing ovations from the packed gymnasium. At one point, the room erupted with chants of "We want a vote!" Audience members, many wearing green ribbons in support of the victims, were stomping their feet on the bleachers and clapping their hands in unison with the chant.

"This is not about me. This is not about politics. This is about doing the right thing for all the families who are here who have been torn apart by gun violence," Obama said, his voice rising with emotion as he shook his finger in the air.

Obama argued that lawmakers have an obligation to the children killed and other victims of gun violence to allow an up-or-down vote in the Senate. That would require 50 votes to pass, rather than a procedural maneuver some Republican senators are threatening to require 60 votes, potentially sinking the legislation.

"Some back in Washington are already floating the idea that they may use political stunts to prevent votes on any of these reforms. Think about that. They're not just saying they'll vote no on ideas that almost all Americans support. They're saying they'll do everything they can to even prevent any votes on these provisions. They're saying your opinion doesn't matter. And that's not right.

Obama rode to the speech with Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, who signed sweeping gun control legislation into law Thursday with the Sandy Hook families standing behind him. But legislation in Washington faces a tougher challenge, as the nation's memories of the shooting fade with time and the National Rifle Association wages a formidable campaign against Obama's proposals.

Reagan, Thatcher forged a close, lasting bond

WASHINGTON (AP)—Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, two self-assured and firm-speaking conservatives, joined forces in the early 1980s and drastically changed the economic and political landscapes in both of their countries.

Their calls for more-austere government and lower taxes still resonate with conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic. And their side-by-side standing up to Soviet communism is credited by those of all political stripes as hastening the end of the Cold War.

Thatcher died Monday in London of a stroke at 87.

The British prime minister and the American president had the kind of personal bond that is extremely rare at such high levels of power.

She was the first and last White House State Dinner guest during Reagan's eight-year presidency. And when he died in 2004, at 93 after suffering for years with Alzheimer's disease, a frail Thatcher attended his state funeral.

"They had similar backgrounds and in some ways could understand what the other was experiencing," said Heather Conley, director of Europe programs for the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"And they had unique solidarity. They were tough, they were single-minded in many ways. Some have argued that that lack of complexity was their shortcoming. But in some ways, their focus was their strength," Conley said.

Reagan and Thatcher forged a special friendship "from the very beginning, the first time they met," former first lady Nancy Reagan said Monday.

"I loved it that she and Ronnie were as close as they were," she told Fox News.

Thatcher led Britain's Conservative Party to three election victories, governing from 1979 to 1990. Reagan was president from 1981 to 1989.

AP

In this April 9, 1975 file photo, former California Governor Ronald Reagan presents a silver dollar medallion to Opposition Leader Margaret Thatcher when he visited her office at the House of Commons in London.

Both cut income taxes deeply and reined in national government spending. Both favored privatizing many government functions. Both stood up to organized labor. Both tackled inflation. Both were strong advocates of free markets and increased open international trade.

And both had a lasting—and controversial—impact on their own and opposing political parties in their respective nations.

Reagan's supply-side theories that lower taxes can stimulate growth—like a rising tide that lifts all ships—was derided as "Reaganomics" by critics and even once called "voodoo economics" by the Republican who went on to serve as his vice president and later as president himself, George H. W. Bush.

Even today, it is hard for American Republicans to support any increase in taxes—a Reagan legacy that still makes it difficult for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on tax legislation.

In Britain, Thatcher's policies were dubbed "Economic Thatcherism."

"Using deregulation and privatization, she restored Great Britain, once dismissed as the `sick man of Europe,' to its position as a world power. Indeed, her policies led the way and inspired other nations—including those in newly free Eastern Europe—to adopt similar reforms to boost their economies," Ed Feulner, former president of the conservative Heritage Foundation, wrote Monday in a tribute.

"An intrepid warrior for freedom and human dignity, Prime Minister Thatcher stood with her `noble friend,' President Ronald Reagan, to confront the Soviet empire when it was at its peak," Feulner added.

Thatcher's efforts in advancing conservative causes and programs in Britain may have strengthened Reagan's hand in selling his conservative agenda at home, and vice versa.

Conservatives at the time viewed the political victories of the two allies as part of a worldwide trend moving in their direction—a trend that has since run into a lot of bumps in the road.

Today's widely held warm and fuzzy image of the Reagan-Thatcher alliance of three decades ago may have been fortified and blurred somewhat by the passage of time.

"They were actually very similar, but very different from what many people today think they did," said Bruce Bartlett, an economic adviser to Reagan and Bush.

Father sobs on 911 after kids buried in collapse

STANLEY, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina man tearfully begged authorities to hurry to his house to rescue his daughter and her cousin, who were buried when the walls of a 24-foot deep pit he dug on his property collapsed.

Jordan Arwood, 31, was operating a backhoe Sunday night in the pit when the walls collapsed and he called 911.

Arwood's desperate voice is heard on a recording released by the Lincoln County communications center on Monday, when the children's bodies were recovered.

"Please hurry ... My children are buried under tons of dirt ... They're buried under tons of clay ... It fell on top of them," he said sobbing.

When the dispatcher asked him if he could see the children, Arwood said he couldn't.

"The entire wall collapsed on them. Get a crane. Get a bulldozer. Get anything you can, please," he said. "There's no way they can breathe."

As the dispatcher began encouraging him—and with people wailing in the background—Arwood began praying.

"Lord lift this dirt up off these children ... so the children will be alive and well ... I have to get my kids. Lord, please," he said.

The bodies of the two young cousins, 6-year-old Chloe Jade Arwood and 7-year-old James Levi Caldwell, were dug out Monday.

Later on Monday, sheriff's deputies removed firearms and a marijuana plant from Arwood's mobile home. Arwood is a felon who is not allowed to have guns. He was convicted in 2003 for possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell.

The father had been digging with a backhoe on the site Sunday, Sheriff David Carpenter said. Investigators described the pit as 20 feet by 20 feet with a sloped entrance leading down to the 24-foot bottom. The children were at the bottom of the pit retrieving a child-sized pickaxe when the walls fell in on them, Carpenter said.

The sheriff would not say what Arwood was building or whether he had any professional help. He did say that investigators would be looking into reports from neighbors that Arwood had been building some sort of protective bunker.

"It's a very large hole. It would look to be something like that, but I don't know. ... We're going to find out exactly what his intentions were," Carpenter said.

He said deputies would be speaking with county planning and zoning officials about any potential building code violations at the site.

Andrew Bryant, a planner with the Lincoln County Planning & Inspections Department, said no permits had been issued.

On the tape, Arwood said he didn't know what happened.

"They were inside the hole helping to get something and the wall collapsed," he said.

At one point, the dispatcher warned him not to put pressure on the dirt. But Arwood said he had to reach the children.

"If this was you and your children in the dirt, you'd be moving the dirt, too," he said.

Arwood's house was at the end of a gravel-covered road dotted with modular and mobile homes. It's a tight-knit rural community where neighbors sit outside on front porches and look out for each other.

Asia

Factories that ran on Korean cooperation go silent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A factory complex that is North Korea's last major economic link with the South was a virtual ghost town Tuesday after Pyongyang suspended its operations and recalled all 53,000 of its workers, cutting off jobs and a source of hard currency in its war of words and provocations against Seoul and Washington.

Only a few hundred South Korean managers remain at the Kaesong industrial complex, which has been run with cheap North Korean labor and South Korean capital and know-how for the past decade. The managers have not been forced to leave the facility just north of the Demilitarized Zone.

One manager said Tuesday that he and his colleagues are subsisting on ramen but planned to stay and watch over the company's equipment as long as their food lasted.

New South Korean President Park Geun-hye, who has sought to re-engage North Korea with dialogue and aid, expressed exasperation with what she called the "endless vicious cycle" of answering hostile behavior with compromise, only to get more hostility.

Pyongyang said Monday it would recall all North Korean workers from the complex and would decide later whether to shut it down for good.

The work stoppage at the biggest employer in the North's third-biggest city shows that Pyongyang is willing to hurt its own shaky economy in order to display its anger with South Korea and the United States. North Korea has a per capita GDP of $1,800 per year, far below that of its neighbors in Northeast Asia, according to the U.S. State Department.

Pyongyang has unleashed a torrent of threats at Seoul and Washington following U.N. sanctions punishing the North for its third nuclear test, on Feb. 12, and joint military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea that allies call routine but that Pyongyang sees as invasion preparation.

U.S. and South Korean defense officials have said they've seen nothing to indicate that Pyongyang is preparing for a major military action in which it would be heavily outgunned. But they have raised their defense postures, and so has Japan, which deployed PAC-3 missile interceptors in key locations around Tokyo as a precaution Tuesday against possible North Korean ballistic missile tests.

Analysts say North Korea's rhetoric and actions are intended to force Pyongyang-friendly policies in South Korea and Washington and to boost domestic loyalty for Kim Jong Un, the country's young, still relatively untested leader.

Park, who took office in February, said she is "very disappointed" by the suspension of operations at Kaesong, and that it would only scare away any opportunity for North Korea to bring in foreign investment.

"North Korea should stop doing wrong behavior and make a right choice for the future of the Korean nation," Park said at the start of a regular Cabinet Council meeting, according to a South Korean media pool report posted on the website of her office.

The Kaesong complex is the last symbol of inter-Korean rapprochement projects from previous eras of cooperation. Other projects such as reunions of families separated by war and tours to a scenic North Korean mountain became stalled in recent years.

Kim Yang Gon, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, announced Monday on a visit to Kaesong that operations at the complex would be suspended. He said the facility has been "has been reduced to a theater of confrontation."

Kim said in a statement released by state media that North Korea will now consider whether to close the complex permanently. "How the situation will develop in the days ahead will entirely depend on the attitude" of South Korean authorities, it said. The message did not say what would happen to the about 400 South Korean managers still at Kaesong.

Some North Koreans who worked overnight shifts at Kaesong were still there Tuesday morning, but South Koreans said those scheduled for day shifts didn't show. A North Korean woman at Kaesong said in a telephone call that her night shift was done and she was headed home.

One of the South Koreans who remained at Kaesong on Tuesday said he planned to stay there until food runs out. He said he and four other colleagues had been living on instant noodles.

"We haven't had any rice since last night. I miss rice," he said Tuesday morning. "We are running out of food. We will stay here until we run out of ramen."

The more than 120 South Korean companies operating at Kaesong urged North Korea to quickly normalize operations. "If this situation continues, companies will face the risk of going bankrupt," said Yoo Chang-geun, a vice president of the Corporate Association of Gaesong Industrial Complex.

After an emergency meeting Tuesday in Seoul, representatives of the companies said in a joint statement that they hope to send a delegation of small- and medium-sized companies to North Korea in hopes of reopening the complex. The statement also appealed to South Korea to take a "mature, embracing posture" and work out all available measures to help normalize Kaesong's operations.

In noting the shutdown, the U.S. referred to a Central Committee of the North's ruling Worker's Party statement a little more than a week ago, in which it described the economy as one of the nation's top two priorities. The other is building nuclear weapons.

AP

A South Korean worker, top, who arrives from North Korea's Kaesong is interviewed by the media at the customs, immigration and quarantine office near the border village of Panmunjom, that has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Monday, April 8, 2013.

Japan deploys PAC-3s amid NKorean launch fears

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has deployed missile interceptors in key locations around Tokyo as a precaution against possible North Korean ballistic missile tests.

The Patriot missiles, called PAC-3s, were deployed Tuesday at Japan's defense ministry headquarters and were also to be deployed at bases farther away from central Tokyo.

Japan has taken similar measures before previous North Korean launches. It has never actually tried to shoot down a North Korean missile and was not expected to try to do so unless there was a clear threat to Japanese territory.

North Korea is believed to have moved ballistic missiles to its east coast, possibly in preparation for a test launch. That has further raised tensions on the Korean Peninsula amid threats by North Korea and large-scale war games involving U.S. and South Korean troops.

Filipino Catholics aim to show their power in vote

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipino Catholic groups launched a campaign Monday to try to muster millions of votes for senatorial candidates who opposed a controversial contraceptives law passed last year and prove that the church remains a force to be reckoned with in Asia's largest Catholic nation.

Catholic leader Mike Velarde said his El Shaddai group and dozens of other lay organizations are joining together to campaign in the May 13 midterm elections for pro-church candidates who could battle possible future legislation to legalize same-sex marriage, divorce and abortion.

The groups could deliver up to 6 million votes in about 3,000 Catholic communities across the country, enough to ensure the electoral victory of pro-church candidates who are vying for 12 of 24 Senate seats in next month's elections, Velarde said. The new movement wants to prove that the influential Catholic church's clout remains formidable, he said.

"The Catholic church is not dead," Velarde told a news conference. "It is alive; it has power."

The Responsible Parenthood Law, which would provide state funding for contraceptives, was passed by lawmakers late last year despite the dominant Catholic church's staunch opposition. The Supreme Court has delayed the law's implementation until June to give proponents and petitioners who questioned its legality a chance to argue their cases before the high tribunal.

Catholic leaders consider the law an attack on the church's core values and say it promotes promiscuity and fosters abortion. The government says the law would help the poor with family planning and provide for maternal health care.

The Philippines has a population of 94 million and one of Asia's highest birth rates. Nearly half of all pregnancies in the Philippines are unwanted, according to the U.N. Population Fund, and a third of those end up aborted in back-alley clinics.

Political analyst Ramon Casiple said the Catholic groups' campaign is not likely to have a major impact on voters—more than half of whom are 35 years old or younger—who will probably favor candidates who would provide them stability rather than vote based mainly on their stand on contraceptives.

"We have a young generation of voters to whom the big issue is the future: Can a candidate give me a job, run the country well and fight corruption?" Casiple said.

Ana Maria Tabunda of independent pollster Pulse Asia said it would be difficult to validate whether Catholics vote as a bloc based on an issue without an exit poll in which religion and choices of voters could be asked and analyzed. A Pulse Asia survey last month showed that the 12 leading senatorial choices of voters included both lawmakers who voted for and against the Responsible Parenthood bill last year.

The law has pitted the Catholic church against popular President Benigno Aquino III and his followers who backed the legislation. Its passage has fostered perceptions that the church's moral and political authority has waned in the country over the decades.

Aquino signed the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 quietly without customary fanfare last December to avoid controversy.

The World Health Organization in the Western Pacific honored Aquino on Monday for backing the law.

World

Flowers placed by well-wishers surround a portrait of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher outside her home in Belgravia, London. AP

Margaret Thatcher, Iron Lady, dead at 87

LONDON (AP)—Love her or loathe her, one thing's beyond dispute: Margaret Thatcher transformed Britain.

The Iron Lady, who ruled for 11 remarkable years, imposed her will on a fractious, rundown nation—breaking the unions, triumphing in a far-off war, and selling off state industries at a record pace. She left behind a leaner government and more prosperous nation by the time a political mutiny ousted her from No. 10 Downing Street.

Thatcher's spokesman, Tim Bell, said the former prime minister died from a stroke Monday morning at the Ritz hotel in London.

As flags were flown at half-staff at Buckingham Palace, Parliament and Downing Street for the 87-year-old, praise for Thatcher and her leadership poured in from around the world.

"Margaret Thatcher undoubtedly was one of the most remarkable political figures of the modern world," said Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin said Thatcher "made a significant contribution to the development of the Soviet-British and Russian-British ties, which we will always remember with gratitude."

President Barack Obama said many Americans "will never forget her standing shoulder to shoulder with President (Ronald) Reagan, reminding the world that we are not simply carried along by the currents of history. We can shape them with moral conviction, unyielding courage and iron will."

Queen Elizabeth II authorized a ceremonial funeral—a step short of a state funeral—to be held for Thatcher at St. Paul's Cathedral in London next week with military honors.

Prime Minister David Cameron cut short a trip to Madrid and Paris to return to Britain following news of Thatcher's death, and said Parliament would be recalled from recess on Wednesday so lawmakers could pay tribute.

For admirers, Thatcher was a savior who rescued Britain from ruin and laid the groundwork for an extraordinary economic renaissance. For critics, she was a heartless tyrant who ushered in an era of greed that kicked the weak out onto the streets and let the rich become filthy rich.

"Let us not kid ourselves. She was a very divisive figure," said Bernard Ingham, Thatcher's press secretary for her entire term. "She was a real toughie. She was a patriot with a great love for this country, and she raised the standing of Britain abroad."

Thatcher was the first—and still only—female prime minister in Britain's history. But she often found feminists tiresome.

Her boxy, black handbag became such a recognizable part of her image that her way of dressing down ministers and opponents became known as "handbagging."

A grocer's daughter, she rose to the top of Britain's snobbish hierarchy the hard way, and envisioned a classless society that rewarded hard work and determination.

She was a trailblazer who at first believed trailblazing impossible: Thatcher told the Liverpool Daily Post in 1974 that she did not think a woman would serve as party leader or prime minister during her lifetime.

But once in power, she never showed an ounce of doubt.

Thatcher could be intimidating to those working for her. British diplomats sighed with relief on her first official visit to Washington, D.C., as prime minister to find that she was relaxed enough to enjoy a glass of whiskey and a half-glass of wine during an embassy lunch, according to official documents.

Like her close friend and political ally Ronald Reagan, Thatcher seemed motivated by an unshakable belief that free markets would build a better country than reliance on a strong, central government. Another thing she shared with the American president: a tendency to reduce problems to their basics, choose a path, and follow it to the end, no matter what the opposition.

She formed a deep attachment to the man she called "Ronnie"—some spoke of it as a schoolgirl crush. Still, she would not back down when she disagreed with him on important matters, even though the United States was the richer and vastly stronger partner in the so-called "special relationship."

Thatcher was at her brashest when Britain was challenged. When Argentina's military junta seized the remote Falklands Islands from Britain in 1982, she did not hesitate, even though her senior military advisers said it might not be feasible to reclaim the islands.

She simply would not allow Britain to be pushed around, particularly by military dictators, said Ingham, who recalls the Falklands War as the tensest period of Thatcher's three terms in power. When diplomacy failed, she dispatched a military task force that accomplished her goal, despite the naysayers.

"That required enormous leadership," Ingham said. "This was a formidable undertaking, this was a risk with a capital R-I-S-K, and she demonstrated her leadership by saying she would give the military their marching orders and let them get on with it."

In deciding on war, Thatcher overruled Foreign Office specialists who warned her about the dangers of striking back. She was infuriated by warnings about the dangers to British citizens in Argentina and the difficulty of getting support from the U.N. Security Council.

"When you are at war you cannot allow the difficulties to dominate your thinking: you have to set out with an iron will to overcome them," she said in her memoir, "Downing Street Years."

"And anyway what was the alternative? That a common or garden dictator should rule over the queen's subjects and prevail by fraud and violence? Not while I was prime minister."

Thatcher's determination to reclaim the islands brought her into conflict with Reagan, who dispatched Secretary of State Alexander Haig on a shuttle mission to London and Buenos Aires to seek a peaceful solution, even as British warships approached the Falklands.

A private diary kept by U.S. diplomat Jim Rentschler captures Thatcher at this crisis point.

"And here's Maggie, appearing in a flower-decorated salon adjoining the small dining room (...) sipping orange juice and sherry," Rentschler wrote. "La Thatcher is really quite fetching in a dark velvet two-piece ensemble with grosgrain piping and a soft hairdo that heightens her blond English coloring."

But the niceties faded over the dinner table.

"High color is in her cheeks, a note of rising indignation in her voice, she leans across the polished table and flatly rejects what she calls the `woolliness' of our secondstage formulation," Rentschler writes.

Needless to say, Haig's peace mission soon collapsed.

Suicide blast in Syrian capital kills at least 15

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—A suicide car bomber struck Monday in the financial heart of Syria's capital, killing at least 15 people, damaging the nearby central bank and incinerating cars and trees in the neighborhood.

The attack was the latest in a recent series of bombings to hit Damascus in the civil war, slowly closing in on President Bashar Assad's base of power in the capital. Rebel fighters have chipped away at the regime's hold in northern and eastern Syria, as well as making significant gains in the south, helped in part by an influx of foreign-funded weapons. The blast was adjacent Sabaa Bahrat Square—near the state-run Syrian Investment Agency, the Syrian Central Bank and the Finance Ministry—and dealt a symbolic blow to the nation's ailing economy.

In the early days of the 2-year-old uprising, the grandiose roundabout was home to huge pro-regime demonstrations with a gigantic poster of Assad hung over the central bank headquarters.

The area was a very different scene Monday. State TV showed several cars on fire and thick black smoke billowing above the tree-lined street. At least six bodies were sprawled on the pavement. Paramedics carried a young woman on a stretcher, her face bloodied and her white shirt stained red. A man placed a T-shirt over a victim whose face was blown off.

Firefighters struggled to extinguish flames that engulfed the two buildings as well as a row of cars near the roundabout. State media put the toll at 15 dead and 146 wounded.

Witnesses said the suicide attacker tried to ram the vehicle into the investment agency but was stopped by guards, forcing the bomber to detonate the explosives at the gate.

Focus

Thatcher, even in death, divides world opinion

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

This is a 1969 file photo showing Margaret Thatcher. AP

Combative and determined to get her way, Margaret Thatcher divided opinion down the middle in life—and in death.

Many leaders lauded Thatcher for her steely determination to modernize Britain's industrial landscape, even at the cost of strikes and riots, and to stand beside the United States as the west triumphed in the Cold War versus the Soviet Union. Others saw a pitiless tyrant who preferred conflict to compromise.

British Prime Minister David Cameron lauded his 1980s predecessor as "a great Briton," but others—particularly Europe's socialists who often clashed with her—were less enamored in their reactions to the death Monday of the conservative icon.

Flags at Buckingham Palace, Parliament and across the United Kingdom were lowered to half-staff. Buckingham Palace said Queen Elizabeth II would send a private message of sympathy to the Thatcher family. Government officials began preparations for a London funeral with military honors at St. Paul's Cathedral next week, followed by a private cremation.

"As our first woman prime minister, Margaret Thatcher succeeded against all the odds," Cameron said in Madrid. He cut short his trip to Spain and canceled a visit to France to return to London for the funeral preparations.

"The real thing about Margaret Thatcher is that she didn't just lead our country. She saved our country," Cameron said, "and I believe she'll go down as the greatest British peacetime prime minister."

In Washington, President Barack Obama said many Americans "will never forget her standing shoulder to shoulder with President (Ronald) Reagan, reminding the world that we are not simply carried along by the currents of history. We can shape them with moral conviction, unyielding courage and iron will."

And former first lady Nancy Reagan said her husband and Thatcher "enjoyed a very special relationship" driven by a common hatred of Communism. "Ronnie and Margaret were political soul mates," she said in a statement that lauded Thatcher's "clear vision and strong determination to stand up for her beliefs at a time when so many were afraid to rock the boat."

In Poland, Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said his country should erect a statue of the British leader. In a tweet he praised Thatcher as "a fearless champion of liberty, stood up for captive nations, helped free world win the Cold War."

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair, who ousted the Conservative Party from power seven years after Thatcher's resignation, conceded that Thatcher had been right to challenge labor union power—the traditional bedrock for Blair's own Labour Party.

"Very few leaders get to change not only the political landscape of their country but of the world. Margaret was such a leader. Her global impact was vast," said Blair, who credited Thatcher with being "immensely supportive" despite their opposing views on many issues.

"You could not disrespect her character or her contribution to Britain's national life," Blair said.

Not all Britons agreed. Several hundred people gathered in Glasgow and in London's Brixton neighborhood for impromptu celebrations, complete with party hats and streamers.

The National Union of Miners—which tussled with Thatcher in a long 1984-85 strike, and lost—expressed condolences to Thatcher's family, but said: "The damage caused by her fatally flawed politics sadly lingers on. Good Riddance."

A cooler breeze also blew from across the English Channel, where many of the men who ran European governments in the 1980s expressed admiration for Thatcher's toughness mixed with femininity—but not her European Union-bashing politics.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso of Portugal called Thatcher "a circumspect yet engaged player in the European Union."

Former French President Valerie Giscard d'Estaing called her "a woman unique in history" with "an unwavering strength."

D'Estaing recalled her impressive entrance to one meeting of EU premiers in France, where all the men were in black tie. "She went out of her car and she wore a long dress, a gown for a sort of ball, and everybody was sort of surprised and impressed. All the other members were flattered to speak with her," he recalled.

Harsh criticism came from Northern Ireland and Argentina, where Thatcher's reputation for unbending determination received early tests—when breaking an Irish Republican Army prison hunger strike in 1981 that left 10 inmates dead, then leading Britain into a 1982 war to reclaim the Falkland Islands from Argentine invaders.

Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party that gained strength from Thatcher's confrontation with IRA prison demands, denounced her as a hypocrite who sanctioned secret talks with senior IRA figures yet refused any concessions in public.

"Here in Ireland her espousal of old draconian, militaristic policies prolonged the war and caused great suffering. She embraced censorship, collusion and the killing of citizens by covert operations," said Adams, whose party ultimately gained a share of power in Northern Ireland after the IRA ceased fire and Blair invited Sinn Fein to the negotiating table.

Many other Irish politicians countered that Thatcher talked tough, but was more pragmatic in private—and dramatically demonstrated this by signing the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 giving the Republic of Ireland a role in Northern Ireland for the first time. She struck the deal, infuriating the north's Protestant majority, barely a year after the IRA tried to assassinate her in a hotel bombing.

"She was presented as the Iron Lady, but she was open to change and she did change," said Noel Dorr, one of Ireland's senior diplomats in the 1980s who had close personal dealings with Thatcher.

Argentina's government offered no official reaction, but many Argentines blamed Thatcher for the deaths of 649 Argentine troops during the South Atlantic conflict. Some 255 British military personnel and three Falkland Islanders also died.

"Thatcher—it's more or less a bad word here in Argentina," said Buenos Aires resident Ruben Chaves. "Nobody here has good feelings towards that name."

Falklands lawmaker Mike Summers said Thatcher was "one of very few political leaders who could have mounted the expedition she mounted in 1982 to restore our freedom, and from a Falkland Islands perspective she will be forever remembered for that."

Pop culture figures past and present sounded off, too.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, the actor and former Republican governor of California, offered a Twitter tribute to Thatcher as "a visionary, a warrior and a once-in-a-lifetime leader who left the world better than she found it."

Others noted her inspirational role to women, even though Thatcher famously eschewed feminism and rarely promoted women herself.

"Thinking of our 1st Lady of girl power, Margaret Thatcher, a green grocer's daughter who taught me anything is possible," tweeted a former member of the Spice Girls band, Geri Halliwell.

THATCHER MILESTONES

LONDON (AP)—Milestones in the life and career of Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher:

Oct. 13, 1925: Born in Grantham, central England.

June 1947: Graduates from Oxford with chemistry degree.

Dec. 13, 1951: Marries wealthy oil executive Denis Thatcher.

Aug. 15, 1953: Gives birth to twins, Mark and Carol.

June 1, 1954: Qualifies as lawyer.

Oct. 8, 1959: Elected to Parliament.

June 20, 1970: Becomes education secretary.

Feb. 11, 1975: Elected leader of Conservative Party.

May 3, 1979: Wins national elections, becomes Europe's first female prime minister.

March 1, 1981: Refuses to concede demands of Irish Republican Army convicts for prisoner-of-war status in Northern Ireland, inspiring a hunger strike. Ten inmates starve to death over following seven months.

Sept. 14, 1981: Dumps or reassigns most of her moderate ministers in Cabinet reshuffle.

April 2, 1982: Argentina invades Falkland Islands, a British territory in the South Atlantic. Thatcher sends a naval task force that recovers the islands after a 74-day war.

June 9, 1983: Wins second term.

Oct. 12, 1984: Survives IRA assassination bid after time bomb explodes near her room in hotel hosting Conservative Party conference. Five others killed, 32 wounded.

Dec. 15, 1984: Becomes first Western leader to meet Mikhail Gorbachev as he visits London prior to becoming Soviet Union's leader.

Dec. 19, 1984: Signs accord with Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang to cede the British colony of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Nov. 15, 1985: Signs Anglo Irish Agreement that gives the Republic of Ireland a role in Northern Ireland for the first time. Move infuriates province's Protestant majority.

Jan. 9, 1986: Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine resigns in dispute over moves to rescue the failing Westland helicopter company. Triggers a Cabinet crisis that pushes Thatcher close to resignation.

April 15, 1986: Allows U.S. to bomb Libya with aircraft based in Britain.

Aug. 1, 1986: Cabinet unanimously supports her resistance to sanctions against South Africa.

March 28, 1987: Travels to Moscow for talks with Gorbachev, strengthens role as key player in arms control negotiations.

June 11, 1987: Wins third term.

Jan. 3, 1988: Becomes Britain's longest continuously serving prime minister of 20th century.

Nov. 22, 1990: Announces resignation after party revolt.

Nov. 28, 1990: Succeeded by John Major as prime minister.

June 26, 1992: Becomes Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, a member of the unelected House of Lords with a lifetime title.

March 22, 2002: Ends public speaking after a series of strokes.

June 26, 2003: Her husband dies.

April 8, 2013: Dies of stroke.

Campus Life

ESFDB students excel in junior high mock trial

Seven Junior High school teams squared off on Saturday, April 6, at the Guma Hustisia for this year's non-competitive Junior High Mock Trial Competition.

Stimulated by popular TV crime shows and high-profile celebrity cases, the student's big appetite for courtroom dramas showed up in the Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja Junior High School Mock Trial team. Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja put together a group of talented students who played various roles as witnesses and attorneys.

Marnecia Hocog, Angelica Lucero, and Jonelle Toskas played the role of attorneys while Tyra Reese Calvo, Loreville Clitar, Metka Mendiola, and Joshua Puerto were the witnesses.

The ESFDB team squared off with their counterpart on Rota, Grace Christian Academy, in a fictitious case called *Detective Robin E. Taro v. Chief Bobbie Lemmai of the Maugville Police Department.*

Both teams were given a chance to study the case, work out a strategy, and then compete, where the case is "tried" in a real courtroom before an actual judge. After the trial, both teams are recognized for their performances.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja's Jr. High Mock Trial Team pose for a souvenir photo with Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho singled out Hocog, Lucero, and Toskas as the best attorneys, while Clitar and Calvo were recognized as the best witnesses for their performances.

ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig said she was proud of the students' accomplishments. "They had less than a month to practice and it had to be integrated with their Social Studies lessons. That's a lot to absorb for a student. But I had confidence in the students and their teachers."

Atalig further stated, "For those who are interested in law as a career, junior high and high school mock trial has already proven to be a fertile training ground."

ESFDB board president and Army JAG lawyer Edward Maratita Jr., who served as a lawyer coach for the team, said, "Besides learning what lawyers do and how trials work, students pick up many valuable skills. They learn social studies, public speaking skills, performing arts, confidence, and the ability to think on their feet and poise. Confidence is the most important thing to have in court."

Mary Rose Lucero, teacher coach of the Junior High Mock Trial, said the activity "gives students opportunities to learn about the judicial system, to decide what they want to do with their lives when they grow up, and to have fun."

Team member Lucero, who is in 7th grade, said their team had "many different personalities and many different skill sets, which is what makes our team great."

"It was a lot of fun doing the lawyer thing, but I am not sure I want to be a lawyer," said 7th grader Toskas. "I plan to be a doctor."

Clitar, also a 7th grader, said, "I particularly enjoyed playing a witness because it's a lot like acting."

"Whether we're chosen or not as best attorneys or witnesses, the experience is what counts and to have fun," said Hocog.

This was ESFDB's third participation in the Junior High Mock Trial since the program was introduced to the school in 2008.

Prior to the event, Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona gave the students a tour of the Supreme Court chambers while quizzing them at the same time.

The administration, faculty, and students would like to express their appreciation to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Superior and Supreme Court judges and justices, Pacific Regional Training Institute Legal Counsel Division (Guam), and parents. ***(Edward Maratita Jr.)***

CNMI JROTC cadets tackle spring camp

One hundred and twenty-seven CNMI JROTC cadets representing Rota, Saipan Southern, Marianas, Tinian and Kagman high schools participated in a five-day JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment from March 22 to March 26. The cadets set up camp on the grounds of Saipan Southern High School. The federal government provided the CNMI JROTC the majority of funds to underwrite the cost of supporting all the operational and logistical aspects of the exercise.

JCLC provides the cadets an opportunity to practice leadership skills in an unfamiliar environment. Cadets were randomly assigned to units that included students from all the schools. JCLC provides the cadets an opportunity to conduct adventure training activities not normally available at home station.

Cadets participated in a daily regimen that included roll call (Wake Up) at Zero Dark Thirty, morning physical training, a full day of events and nightly activities. The daily activities the cadets participated in included rappelling, leadership reaction course, rope bridge construction, knot tying, land navigation, first aid, physical training, cadet challenge, volleyball, softball, basketball, archery and academic challenge.

The cadets also conducted a historical staff ride where they visited significant World War II sites and received an in-depth briefing by the American Memorial Park Staff.

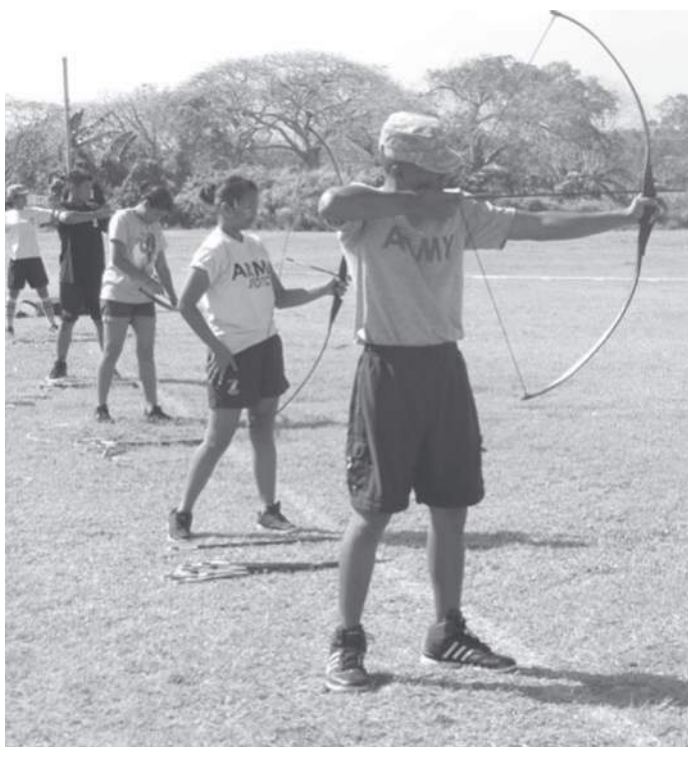
On Sunday, the cadets and staff visited the Saipan Zoo where they got to see all of the animals, many for the first time. They also got to see up close the brown tree snake and received a superb overview of its impact on the environment.

The Camp also included several spirited athletic, military and academic competitions; cadet challenge PT test, academic challenge, volleyball, softball, archery, basketball and best tent area. Scoring was tight as the cadets cheered their respective teams to victory. Tinian High School won the archery, basketball and cadet challenge events. Rota High School won the best tent area for females and the volleyball competition. Kagman High School JROTC won the softball competition. Saipan Southern High School won the academic challenge and best tent area for males.

LTC Bob Gay, director of Army Instruction, and the CNMI cadre chose activities that provided the cadets authentic learning activities and promoted the invaluable skills of leadership, teamwork, problem solving, discipline, self-esteem, personal responsibility, making decisions and sociability.

During the closing ceremony, Gay recognized and thanked PSS leadership, Saipan Southern High School principal Lynn Mendiola, and her JROTC staff; CSM Ric Basa and SGM Jack Kiyoshi, for hosting the encampment; and all of the JROTC instructors and chaperones. Gay said he was especially proud of the camaraderie, bearing, and sportsmanship demonstrated by the cadre and the cadets.

Lifelong relationships were formed during this challenging exercise. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets from all five high schools compete in the archery competition during the five-day JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets use teamwork to move boards to cross to the other side without touching the ground.

Life & Style

Thatcher had profound effect on popular culture

LONDON (AP)—Margaret Thatcher was not just a political titan, she was a cultural icon—skewered by comedians, transformed into a puppet and played to Oscar-winning perfection by Meryl Streep.

With her uncompromising politics, ironclad certainty, bouffant hairstyle and ever-present handbag, the late British leader was grist for comedians, playwrights, novelists and songwriters whether they loved her or—as was more often the case—hated her.

AP

This is an undated film image provided by on Feb.1, 2011 by The Weinstein Company, Meryl Streep as she portrays Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

SATIRICAL TARGET

Thatcher's free-market policies transformed and divided Britain, unleashing an outpouring of creative anger from her opponents. A generation of British comedians, from Ben Elton to Alexei Sayle, honed their talents lampooning Thatcher.

To the satirical puppeteers of popular 1980s TV series "Spitting Image," Thatcher was a cigar-smoking bully, a butcher with a bloody cleaver, a domineering leader ruling over her docile Cabinet. One famous sketch showed Thatcher and her ministers gathered for dinner. Thatcher ordered steak. "And what about the vegetables?" the waitress asked. "They'll have the same as me," Thatcher replied.

In the U.S., "Saturday Night Live" got in on the act—albeit more gently—making the Iron Lady the subject of several skits. In one of them, Monty Python member Michael Palin played the prime minister shortly after her election in 1979, poking fun at her helmet of hair.

MUSICAL OPPOSITION

Pop was political in Thatcher's day, as the bitter social divisions of the 1980s sparked an angry musical outpouring.

"Whenever I'm asked to name my greatest inspiration, I always answer 'Margaret Thatcher,'" musician Billy Bragg, one of her most vocal opponents, said in 2009. "Truth is, before she came into my life, I was just your run-of-the-mill singer-songwriter."

Bragg was a member of the 1980s Red Wedge movement that campaigned against Thatcher and the Conservatives and for the Labour Party.

"I see no joy, I see only sorrow, I see no chance of your bright new tomorrow," sang The Beat, urging Thatcher to resign in "Stand Down Margaret."

In "Tramp the Dirt Down," Elvis Costello imagined the day of Thatcher's death: "When they finally put you in the ground, I'll stand on your grave and tramp the dirt down."

Former Smiths frontman Morrissey went even further, lyrically fantasizing about "Margaret on the Guillotine."

But for some later musicians, Thatcher was a positive figure.

Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell—who sported a Union Jack mini-dress as part of the 1990s girl group—tweeted Monday: "Thinking of our 1st Lady of girl power, Margaret Thatcher, a green grocer's daughter who taught me anything is possible."

LITERARY INSPIRATION

Thatcher has made appearances in several novels written or set in the 1980s.

In Salman Rushdie's 1988 book, "The Satanic Verses," she was "Mrs. Torture." Despite his political opposition to Thatcher, Rushdie remembered her on Monday as a "considerate" woman who had offered him police protection after the novel brought a death sentence from Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

She was a major, though mostly unseen, presence in Alan Hollinghurst's Booker Prize-winning 2004 novel "The Line of Beauty," set during the height of Thatcher's rule. The prime minister's appearance at a Conservative lawmaker's party—where she sends the crowd into a tizzy and dances to the Rolling Stones with the novel's young protagonist—forms the dizzying pivot of Hollinghurst's tale of 80s power and excess.

STAGE AND SCREEN STAR

Thatcher's transformation into a stage and screen character started not long after she took office. Thatcher's personal papers include an account of an excruciating 1981 evening that she and her husband, Denis, spent at a West End farce titled "Anyone for Denis?"

On stage, Thatcher remains a potent figure, a shorthand for the 1980s. In the Olivier- and Tony Award-winning musical "Billy Elliot," coal miners sing "Merry Christmas Maggie Thatcher," a song with music by Elton John and lyrics that say: "We all celebrate today 'cause it's one day closer to your death."

The London production of "Billy Elliot" kept the song in on Monday, after polling the opinion of the audience.

West End theatergoers are currently flocking to see "The Audience," a play about meetings between Queen Elizabeth II and the 12 prime ministers of her long reign. The play is a gentle liberal drama, and Haydn Gwynne's strident Thatcher is gently rebuked by the monarch over her opposition to sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

On-screen, the character of Thatcher had a jokey cameo at the end of the 1981 James Bond movie "For Your Eyes Only," but for left-wing directors, she was no laughing matter. Stephen Frears' "My Beautiful Laundrette" was one of several 1980s films that depicted Thatcher's Britain as a land of poverty and racism as well as economic enterprise.

Others have mined the drama of a hardworking grocer's daughter who became Britain's first female prime minister. In the 2008 TV movie "The Long Walk to Finchley," Andrea Riseborough played the young politician fighting for a seat in Parliament. The next year "Margaret," with Lindsay Duncan, depicted the end of her career via a Cabinet coup in 1990.

The most acclaimed recent screen Thatcher was Streep's turn as the aged politician looking back on her life in the 2011 film "The Iron Lady." Streep won an Academy Award for a performance that humanized a divisive character.

Streep said Monday that Thatcher's political legacy was "worthy for the argument of history to settle."

"It is hard to imagine a part of our current history that has not been affected by measures she put forward in the U.K.," Streep said. "But to me, she was a figure of awe for her personal strength and grit."

Thatcher biography due out after funeral

LONDON (AP)—The first volume of Margaret Thatcher's authorized biography will be published immediately after her funeral.

Allen Lane, which is part of Penguin Books, said Monday that "Not for Turning" by Charles Moore was commissioned in 1997 on the understanding that it would not be published during the former British prime minister's lifetime.

Thatcher died from a stroke Monday morning at age 87. Her funeral is expected to be held at some point next week.

Moore was given full access to Thatcher's private papers and interviewed her extensively. The publisher said that Thatcher also supported requests for interviews with others, including those who worked most closely with her and her family.

Permission was also granted to former and existing civil servants to speak freely about the Thatcher years.

Halle Berry, Michael Kors launch Watch Hunger Stop

NEW YORK (AP)—Halle Berry says she's a woman of compassion and Michael Kors says he's a man of action. Together, they want to make a dent in the battle against hunger around the world.

The actress and fashion designer announced a philanthropic campaign Monday called Watch Hunger Stop that includes raising money through the sale of a version of Kors' best-selling Runway watch. For each $295 watch sold, 100 meals will be provided to children through the U.N. World Food Programme.

Berry and Kors are planning to visit places together where the meals will be sent. They could land in Africa, in Syria, perhaps Central America.

The 46-year-old Berry, who is expecting her first child with fiance Olivier Martinez, said in an exclusive joint interview Saturday with Kors: "I hope we go while I'm pregnant, so I can talk about prenatal care."

"And I will have time off," she said, patting her belly and smiling. "I'm not working right now." (There was no sign of a baby bump in her chic black sheath with a bit of beading at the neckline.)

Berry, who has a 5-year-old daughter, said she wanted to meet and talk with mothers struggling to feed themselves and their children while she was expecting. It will help build a connection, she said.

Berry

"It's so important to me, being a mom, that I can help educate women on how important it is that when you have a healthy child, it helps set them up for life."

Kors and Berry hope to involve 5 million people, either through donations of time or money.

Berry, who supports the Jenesse Center, an anti-domestic violence shelter in Los Angeles, said working with the U.N. "is the next evolution in my philanthropic world. It puts my heart and compassion on a global scale."

Kors is a longtime supporter of God's Love We Deliver, a New York-based organization that delivers meals to those in need. "The change you saw when people going hungry got a meal—it was an immediate difference. This isn't about research or a big political or social change, this is about giving a meal to people who need them."

"I go all over the globe traveling, and there are very few things in the world that are solvable catastrophes," he said. "This is one of them."

The designer said he asked Berry to be his partner in the campaign because "I'm enthralled by fabulous jugglers."

The message would be strongest coming from two well-known voices, he said. "I wanted someone talented, check. Someone compassionate to the world, a great mother, someone incredibly glamorous and chic—and who makes it all look easy."

"If we can use our celebrity, I want to. I don't want it to go waste," Berry said. "If would be a shame not to use it."

There are many fundraising products for many good causes, Kors said, but choose a watch and it's simple math: a direct formula that it's 100 meals per watch as a conversation starter. Plus, he wears a watch, although he uses his cellphone to check the time. The watch is to make more of "a James Bond statement," he joked.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Rita Sablan Figura

November 09, 1941 - April 01, 2013

In her new life; she now joins her:
Parents: Antonio Palacios Sablan & Isabel Kaipat Ilo

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Richard Figura
Sons: Patrick and Michael
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: Gregorio B. Sablan & Frances and Children; **Gregorio** I. Sablan & Helen Villagomez and Children; **Pedro** I. & Balbina Sablan and Children; **Ana** Sablan & Frank Hunt and Children; **Maria** I. Sablan (Joseph Sablan & Annie King, Teresa & Alam, Carlos & Linda, Conrad & Dan Wang, Vincent & Lou, Victor & Frances); **Antonio** I. Sablan

She will also be greatly missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral Service will be announced at a later date.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Cuban-American politicians decry Beyonce Cuba trip

MIAMI (AP)—Beyonce and Jay-Z's trip to Cuba has angered two Cuban-American politicians who are demanding information on whether the couple's visit to the communist island was licensed.

U.S. Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida have written to the U.S. Department of Treasury expressing concern about the trip. In the letter, both said they represent a community that has been "deeply and personally harmed by the Castro regime's atrocities."

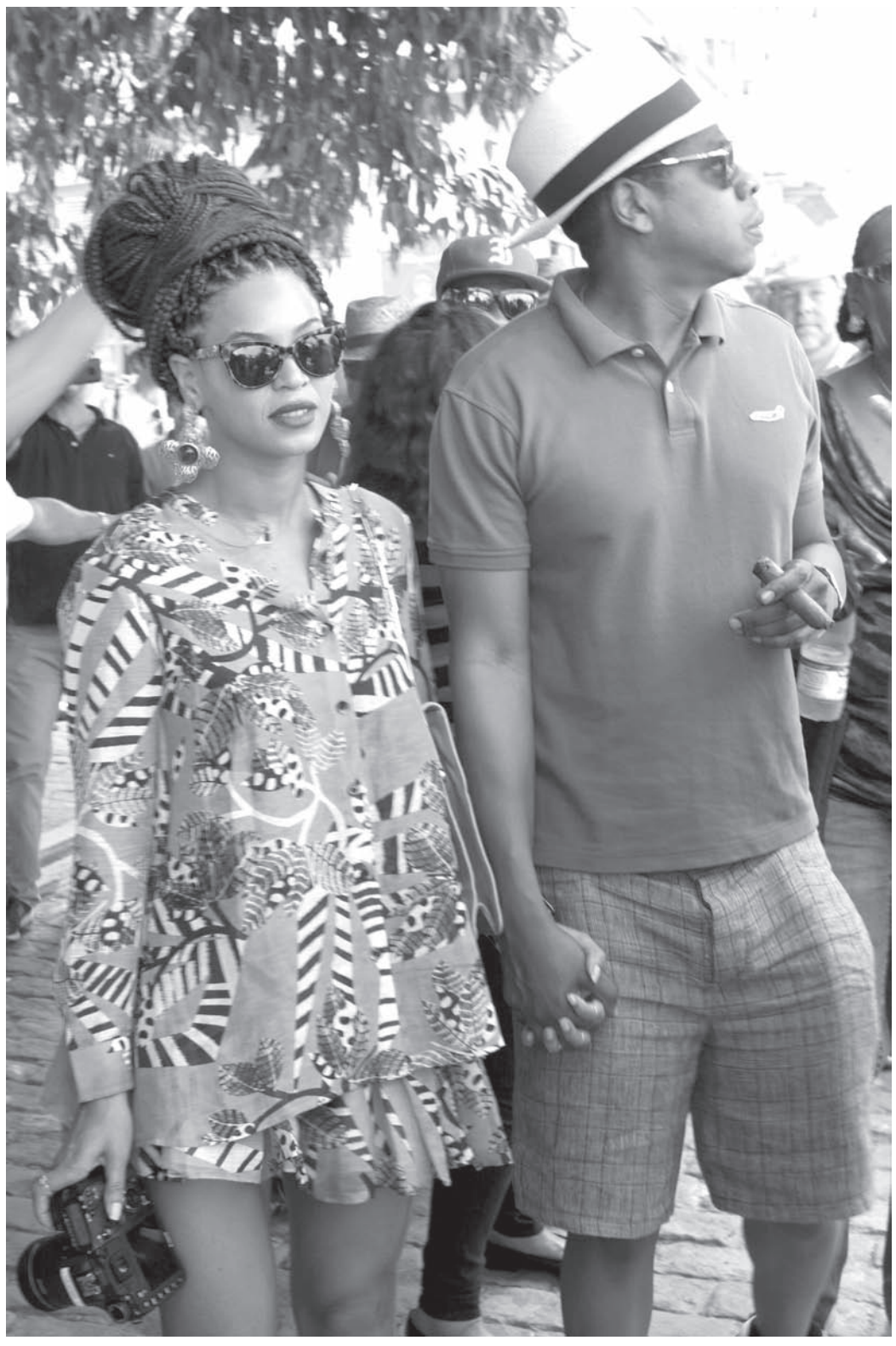
"The restrictions on tourism travel are commonsense measures meant to prevent U.S. dollars from supporting a murderous regime that opposes U.S. security interests at every turn and which ruthlessly suppresses the most basic liberties of speech, assembly and belief," the Republican lawmakers wrote.

John Sullivan, a Treasury spokesman in Washington, said he could not comment on specific licenses. He said the agency was working on a response to the letter from Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart.

Beyonce and Jay-Z marked their fifth wedding anniversary in Havana last week. The state-run website CubaSi called it a tourist trip. The artists declined to speak with reporters.

U.S. citizens are not allowed to travel to Cuba for mere tourism, though they can obtain licenses for academic, religious, journalistic or cultural exchange trips. The so-called people-to-people licenses were reinstated under the Obama administration and are designed to help promote civil society and independence from Cuban authorities.

The U.S. government tightened requirements to obtain the licenses last year after Republican Cuban-American Sen. Marco Rubio criticized the programs as cover-ups for tourism. Rubio derided groups that were granted licenses for activities such as salsa dancing and a trip to the Cuban Ministry of Culture.



AP

U.S. singer Beyonce and her husband, rapper Jay-Z, tour Old Havana, Cuba, Thursday, April 4, 2013. R&B's power couple is in Havana on their fifth wedding anniversary.

The U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control issued new requirements last May that required travel operators to provide detailed information on every aspect of their trip.

On Monday, Rubio tweeted that if Jay-Z really wanted to know what Cuban life is like, he should have visited dissident rapper Angel Yunier Remon. Rubio closed his tweet with the hashtag "99problems&dictatorsareone," a reference to Jay-Z's song "99 Problems."

During the R&B power couple's trip to Cuba, they ate at the renowned, privately run La Guarida restaurant and toured colonial Old Havana. They were followed by bodyguards and fans. Beyonce posed for photos with schoolchildren while Jay-Z puffed on a Cuban cigar.

Not all of the Cuban-American community lambasted their trip. Arturo Lopez-Levy, a Cuban economist and analyst who lectures at the University of Denver, said the trip and subsequent fallout were "a call to take a fresh look at the U.S. policy toward Cuba with the candidness of an adolescent."

Julia Stiles moves to TV-on-the-Web projects

By DAVID MARTINDALE
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH, Texas—Julia Stiles recently pulled the plug. No more cable television in her home.

The New York-based actress has come to the conclusion that all the TV she wants to watch is readily available online.

"This is the wave of the future, the way that people watch shows more and more," Stiles says, "on their devices and on the computer."

Her new approach as a viewer coincides with her professional conversion to TV on the Web.

A little more than a year ago, Stiles was approached about playing the title role in a Web-based drama series called "Blue," to be made available to viewers at youtube.com/wigs and watchwigs.com.

"At first I was a little bit reluctant about the idea," she admits. "I didn't know what to expect and I didn't really know how the programming on YouTube would develop. But I was intrigued also by the idea."

Now she's completely hooked. Episodes from the second season of "Blue," about a single mother leading a secret life as an upscale escort, are rolling out now. What's more, Stiles wrote and directed a four-episode series titled "Paloma," which will premiere later this spring on the WIGS site.

Stiles hasn't sworn off traditional acting jobs, mind you. She co-starred in "Silver Linings Playbook," one of the most celebrated feature films of 2012, and did a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, "The Makeover," that aired earlier this year on ABC.

But Stiles also sings the praises of TV on the Web like it's the greatest filmmaking innovation since the introduction of sound.

Here, to her way of thinking, are some of the plusses:

"The turnaround is faster," Stiles says. "In movies and with television shows, the amount of time it takes to get something developed and financed and then set up and shot and out in theaters or on TV is so long. It can take years.

"The exciting thing about what we're doing is we can accomplish so much so quickly. I wrote 'Paloma' in September and it's already finished. We shot (Season 2 of) 'Blue' in November and December and it's already being aired.

"And in terms of quality, we used very professional crews and good production values, and the cameras are pretty sophisticated.

"Also, you get a lot more creative freedom. When you're working on a studio film, because there's so much more money at stake, there are a lot more people to answer to."

As for a downside, the only thing she can think of is that viewers are still selling themselves short by watching quality TV shows and movies on cellphones and undersized computer monitors.

"I still like the bigger screen and I still go to the movies," Stiles says. "I like to sit in a dark theater and enjoy the projection of film."

But watching this content online will become better, she adds, "as the technology gets better."

It didn't take long for "Blue" to build a loyal Internet following. The show's success reinforces Stiles' belief that good storytelling will find an audience, no matter how it's delivered to consumers.

"What sold me was the first scene of the first episode in Season 1," Stiles recalls. "It was such a great premise, which is this girl leading a double life, constantly dealing with how to manage that and control it, even though the two worlds are going to collide.

"In Season 1, she is with a client and as things get hot and heavy she realizes he recognizes her from high school. I thought the idea that she's trying to keep something so secretive was worth exploring."

Bateman shows everyman's dark side, for a change, in 'Disconnect'

By ROGER MOORE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla.—Jason Bateman knows why he gets work. It's how good he is at being the everymensch / everyman, the guy "things happen to" in a comedy.

It's right there under the category marked "trademark" on his biography on the Internet Movie Database—"a put-upon everyman." In that guise, he's sort the surrogate for the audience.

"There is perhaps a relatability to what I do or what I look like," Bateman says. "I enjoy playing that sort of guy, because there's a lot of responsibility there. I'm a player who wants the ball, and if I'm being asked to be the eyes, the ears, the proxy for the audience, that's the ball."

Bateman is handed the ball a lot these days. He co-starred with Melissa McCarthy in the year's biggest comedy hit, "Identity Thief," playing the victim of a scam artist. And he was handed the ball again in the ensemble drama "Disconnect," playing a workaholic tuned-out father whose son is the tragic victim of cyber-bullying.

"I don't get offered a lot of dramas, but I wasn't surprised that I got offered another role who turns out to be a sort of surrogate for the audience."

The viewer experiences the horror and rage any parents would feel at realizing their child, unbeknownst to them, was living in agony because of what others are doing to him on the Internet. Bateman, "neatly cast against type" (Variety), lets us see a scary side of himself that his put-upon farces never do.

"I know how to be funny. But under all that is just another human being, and anger and simmering rage is much easier to play since there's not another layer on top of that. In comedy you've got to believable AND put the funny layer on top of it. Strip away the funny stuff and you've got just another normal guy going through something that's challenging."

The father of two (he's married to Amanda Anka, the daughter of singer-songwriter Paul Anka), the star of "Horrible Bosses," "Extract" and a Golden Globe winner for "Arrested Development" found an easy way to "get to that place" where he's a frightened and furious father.

"If I have a scene like that coming up, I pop out my iPhone and start flipping through pictures of my kids. That will get me in a very soft and vulnerable place, and we're off."

The coincidence of starring in back-to-back films about online privacy, or the lack of it, has him joking that "This is my theme—everything I'm doing this year is about that issue." But he's starring in the long-awaited return of the cult TV show "Arrested Development," with new episodes on Netflix beginning May 26. You might expect that for Bateman, 44, and seven years removed the series, his main emotion in revisiting that dysfunctional extended-family comedy would be relief. Fans, a lot of them journalists, have been nagging him and everyone from the show about a possible reunion for years.

"That show is what I owe the second half of my career to," the one-time child star ("Valerie" / "The Hogan Family") says. "Those were my favorite people (Michael Cera, Portia Di Rossi, Will Arnett) to work with. I never got tired of the questions, and when the offer came to go back there, they didn't have to ask me twice."

Fans get early look at 'Elysium' footage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The year is 2154, and Earth belongs to the poor. The wealthiest citizens live on "Elysium," an idyllic, disease-free utopia they built in space.

On Monday, a few hundred film fans in Los Angeles, Berlin and Sao Paolo got an early look at the future home of the wealthiest 1 percent as imagined by "District 9" writer-director Neill Blomkamp.

The South African-born director showed about 10 minutes of footage from the anticipated film during a special screening. Matt Damon, who stars alongside Jodie Foster, introduced the footage in Berlin and appeared at Hollywood's Arclight Theater via satellite.

In the film, Earth is a trash-filled landscape policed unforgivingly by robotic droids. Flying military tanks patrol the sky.

Damon plays a diseased Earthling trying to infiltrate Elysium to save himself, and perhaps all of humanity. A group of Earthbound rebels outfit him for the journey with a tentacled "strength suit." They use a drill to affix a digital box to his head that allows him to transfer brain contents as effortlessly as computer files.

Foster plays an Elysium administrator determined to keep Damon out. The star of "District 9," Sharlto Copley, plays a bearded villain who works on Earth to protect the wealthy space enclave.

Speaking to reporters after the screening, Blomkamp hinted that there could be a sequel to his breakthrough debut.

"I think the world of 'District 9' has a lot of very interesting race and impression-based ideas that I would still like to explore in that world," he said.

"Elysium" opens Aug. 9.

Adam Levine to receive BMI's pop President's Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine for president? Sort of.

Broadcast Music Inc. announced Monday that Levine will receive the President's Award at the 61st annual BMI Pop Awards on May 14.

The event will be held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. It will also honor last year's top songwriters in pop.

BMI says the 34-year-old Levine was selected for his "outstanding achievements in songwriting and the global impact he has had on pop culture."

Maroon 5 has released four platinum-plus albums, including last year's "Overexposed." The album features hits including "Payphone," ''One More Night" and "Daylight."

Levine is also a coach on the hit NBC series "The Voice."

BMI is a music rights management company that represents more than 500,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers.

AP

Members of American rock band Maroon 5, from left, Jesse Carmichael, Mickey Madden, Adam Levine, James Valentine and Matt Flynn, pose during a press conference at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in this April 25, 2011 file photo taken in Singapore.

Rushdie remembers Thatcher's 'great life'

NEW YORK (AP)—Salman Rushdie says he remembers Margaret Thatcher with the same complicated feelings he had for her while she was alive: disagreement with her politics, but gratitude for her support when he was forced into hiding in 1989 after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called for his death.

"She had a great life, and offered protection for me when I needed it," said Rushdie, interviewed Monday morning during a promotional tour for the film adaptation of his Booker Prize-winning novel "Midnight's Children."

Politically, he was far to the left of Thatcher and mocked her before 1989, naming one character "Mrs. Torture" in his novel "The Satanic Verses" and at times using unprintable language when referring to her. But when "The Satanic Verses" led to accusations of anti-Muslim blasphemy and to the Ayatollah's decree, Thatcher's government gave Rushdie round-the-clock supervision.

Rushdie, 65, said he met Thatcher just once, at an annual Scotland Yard gathering held for those being protected.

"She was very considerate, and, surprisingly, touchy-feely," Rushdie said. "She would tap you on the arm and say, 'Everything OK?' I hadn't expected that touch of tenderness."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

David Geffen donates $25M for academy museum

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Music and movie mogul David Geffen has kicked in $25 million for a film museum planned by Academy Awards overseers. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Monday that the David Geffen Foundation made the donation for the museum scheduled to open in 2017 next to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. It's the largest contribution yet in the academy's $300 million fund drive for the museum. In recognition, the academy is naming a theater at the facility after Geffen. Record company executive Geffen founded DreamWorks Pictures with Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg. Geffen says the museum will provide a permanent home for the academy's tradition of "honoring the shining stars of the cinematic arts."

NYC trial postponed in Alec Baldwin stalking case

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City trial for a Canadian actress accused of stalking Alec Baldwin has been postponed. Genevieve Sabourin appeared Monday in a Manhattan court. She rejected a plea deal and hired a new lawyer, so her trial date was postponed until May 13. Sabourin and Baldwin met on the set of the 2002 sci-fi comedy "The Adventures of Pluto Nash." Baldwin says they had dinner together in 2010. Authorities say she had implored Baldwin to see and to marry her. They say she sent him emails only days after he became engaged to yoga instructor Hilaria Thomas. Sabourin later spent a night in jail after she was accused of sending Thomas a Twitter message. Baldwin and Thomas married and are expecting their first child together.

Olivia Wilde, Emma Stone team up for Revlon walk

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Olivia Wilde and Emma Stone are getting ready to share the spotlight, and Wilde's fiance might be there, too. Wilde and Stone will return as co-hosts of the 20th annual EIF Revlon Run/Walk for Women in New York on May 4, and Wilde says fiance Jason Sudeikis may join her for the five-kilometer fundraiser. Revlon and the Entertainment Industry Foundation also announced Monday that expectant mom Halle Berry will host the Los Angeles event for the seventh time. It's set for May 11. The EIF Run/Walk for Women has drawn nearly a million participants and donated more than $68 million to support women's cancer research since it was established in 1994. No word on whether Berry's baby-daddy, actor Olivier Martinez, or Stone's beau, "Spider-Man" star Andrew Garfield, will join the races.

History's 'Vikings' to get a second season

By PATRICK KEVIN DAY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Fans of basic cable savagery can let out a primal "Yawp" of delight. History's "Vikings" will be returning for a second season.

The scripted one-hour drama is currently still airing its first season (there are four episodes still left to go in the nine-episode season), but it's doing well enough in the ratings to merit at least 10 more episodes.

The series premiere drew in an audience of over 6 million viewers, topping all the broadcast networks in the key 18- to 49-year-old demographic. And it's continued to do well, averaging around 5 million viewers per episode.

Travis Fimmel stars as Ragnar Lodbrok, the legendary viking warrior, who clashes with his local chieftain, played by Gabriel Byrne, as he expresses his desire to discover new civilizations across the sea.

The series was created by Michael Hirst, who also created the Showtime series "The Tudors," and is History's first foray into scripted drama.

In a statement, History EVP Dirk Hoogstra said, "'Vikings' is a win-win for us. As our first scripted series, 'Vikings' has paid off in a big way with critical acclaim, strong ratings and a passionate, loyal fan base."

The show's first-season finale will air April 28.

Girl's racy Facebook profile makes grandma look askance

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have just discovered that my granddaughter's mother helped her get a Facebook page on which she is listed as 17, interested in men and in a relationship. The child is only 11, but you'd never know it from the makeup and hairdo in her photo.

I am heartbroken that she is being "marketed" this way and that her prospects for a life of achievement and happiness are zero. I have little to no contact with her because I have been put off by her mother's "street" attitude. If her lips are moving, the woman is lying. My granddaughter is disrespectful and ignorant.

What breaks my heart is that I had hoped to pass on to her items that have been in our family for generations, including a sizable inheritance. What can I do to salvage a relationship with a girl who wants nothing to do with me? Failing that, where can I turn to replace her with a more suitable heir? My son can't father any more children.

SAD GRANNY IN FLORIDA

DEAR SAD GRANNY: Your granddaughter may be disrespectful because her mother dislikes you, and you haven't been around enough so the girl could really get to know you. Also, she is only 11. Her mother is presenting her on Facebook in an inappropriate manner (to put it mildly), and the result could be tragic.

Is it possible for your son to talk with a lawyer and seek custody? If it's not, he should contact child protective services. Rather than "replace" your grandchild, it would be better for all concerned to HELP her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Three years ago, I found out that my wife of 14 years was sneaking around behind my back with her high school sweetheart. I confronted both of them and it ended. I forgave her, but I still can't sleep at night because of something that's bothering me. His wife has no idea about the affair, and I feel guilty that I haven't told her about everything that happened.

Some of my friends say I should call her and tell her, but now it seems like it happened too long ago to bring it to her attention. Also, in an attempt to get her husband to come clean—which he did—I promised him I wouldn't tell his wife.

My wife and I have patched things up and we're having the best years of our life together. So the question is, should I break my word and possibly upset my new relationship with my wife so I can not feel this guilt?

CAN'T SLEEP IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CAN'T SLEEP: Surely there's a better cure for your insomnia than causing needless pain to the wife. The affair ended years ago, and she is blameless in all this. Because you are still having trouble sleeping, talk to your doctor about it. Some sessions with a psychologist or a licensed family therapist may help you to assuage your guilt and find closure.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have had the same barber for several years and he is a good friend. While he was on vacation, I used another barber in the shop for a cut. I really like how he cut my hair. How can I change barbers without causing hurt feelings?

LOOKIN' GOOD IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR LOOKIN' GOOD: Barbers are human like everyone else. If you announce that you want to make a change, there probably will be hurt feelings. The question you must ask yourself is, is your relationship with your barber/friend such a close one that you're willing to tolerate continuing to patronize him even though you think someone else can do a better job. (Now THAT'S friendship!)

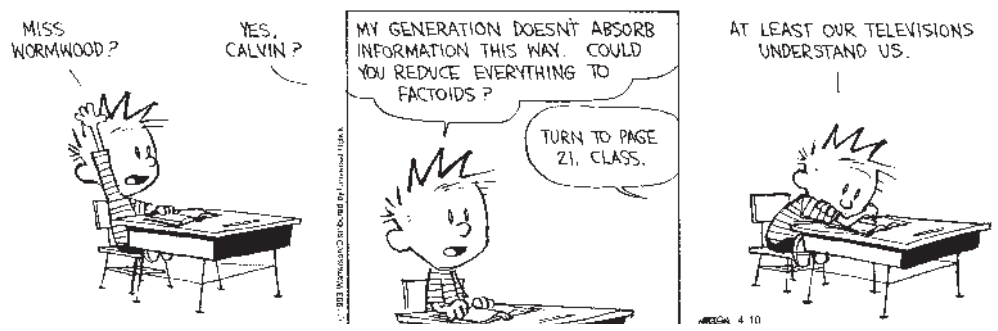
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

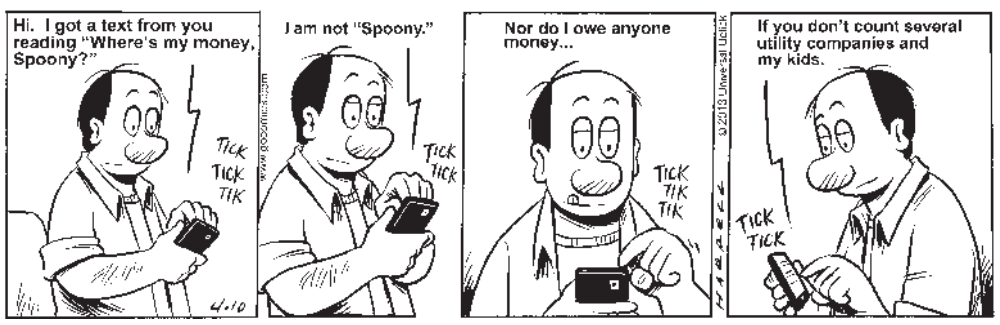

MISS WORMWOOD?
YES, CALVIN?
MY GENERATION DOESN'T ABSORB INFORMATION THIS WAY. COULD YOU REDUCE EVERYTHING TO FACTOIDS?
TURN TO PAGE 21, CLASS.
AT LEAST OUR TELEVISIONS UNDERSTAND US.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Hi. I got a text from you reading "Where's my money, Spoony?"
I am not "Spoony."
Nor do I owe anyone money...
If you don't count several utility companies and my kids.
TICK TICK TIK

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

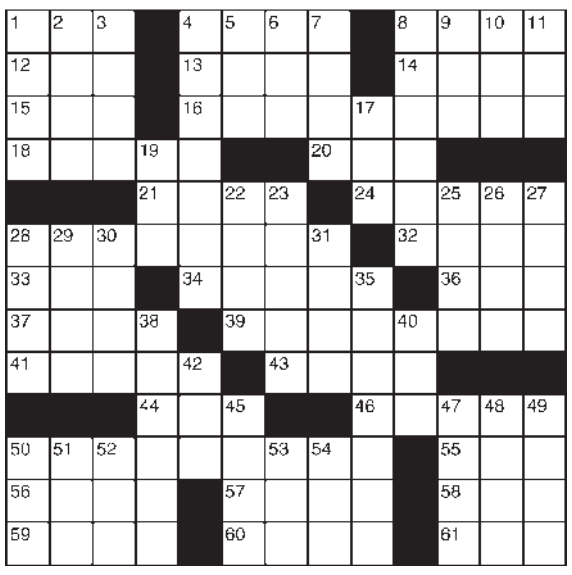
ACROSS
1 "30 Rock" role
4 Dressed
8 Wrinkly fruit
12 Raw rock
13 Bigfoot's cousin
14 Bellow
15 Slight touch
16 Ski resort in the Poconos
18 Same
20 Vast expanse
21 Comfy footwear, for short
24 Make into law
28 Group of submarines
32 Continental coin
33 Alias abbr.
34 Decelerates
36 Kanga's kid
37 Deposited
39 Pancake
41 Hammerstein's contribution
43 God, in Grenoble
44 Upper limit
46 Getting on
50 Type of shoulder bag
55 Anti
56 "American —"
57 Pivot
58 Greek H
59 Roly- —
60 Layer
61 Morning moisture

DOWN
1 Source of wealth
2 Mideastern nation
3 Ox of India
4 One-eyed beast
5 Grazing ground
6 24-hr. money provider
7 Conks out
8 Suave
9 — long way
10 Varnish ingredient
11 Annoy
17 Appomattox loser
19 Bowling alley inits.
22 A little lower?
23 Berate
25 Emanation
26 Gator's cousin
27 Snatched
28 Partition
29 Fine
30 Hideaway
31 "The Bridge on the River —"
35 House VIP
38 In a pleasant way
40 Moonshine container
42 Automobile
45 "Hey, you!"
47 On the rocks
48 Memorandum
49 Eat away (at)
50 With it
51 Big bother
52 Encyc. portion
53 Foreman foe
54 Prompt

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	C	M	E	■	P	O	M	P	■	M	P	H
I	H	I	N	■	O	D	O	R	■	A	R	E
M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N	E	■	N	I	B
■	■	■	U	P	O	N	■	L	O	D	G	E
L	A	M	E	S	■	■	D	A	R	E	■	■
A	L	A	S	■	P	L	U	T	A	R	C	H
I	O	N	■	D	E	I	C	E	■	L	I	E
R	E	D	G	I	A	N	T	■	B	E	T	A
■	■	A	I	L	S	■	■	F	O	Y	E	R
L	A	T	T	E	■	A	E	O	N	■	■	■
E	G	O	■	M	A	N	D	R	I	L	L	S
F	A	R	■	M	I	N	D	■	N	F	A	P
T	R	Y	■	A	R	E	A	■	G	A	M	Y

Yesterday's answer 4-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Pettyfer, 23; Haley Joel Osment, 25; Shay Mitchell, 26; Dion Phaneuf, 28

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind and listen to what others have to say before you jump to conclusions. Timing must be acute if you wish to succeed. You will have added energy, but it's how you use it that will count. Engage in the causes, concerns, pastimes and talents you enjoy doing most and you will excel. Your numbers are 9, 12, 17, 21, 29, 32, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll find it difficult to sidestep emotional issues. Speak up and settle whatever is bothering you. A change may be necessary if you don't want to lose confidence or self-respect. Once you start down a certain path, you must complete your mission. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put a little force behind your words and you will get what you want. You don't have to upset authority figures, but making diplomatic suggestions in a tactful manner will show who is in control. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make a difference. Suggest reforms you feel will help create a better environment at work, home or in your community. You don't have to donate financially; putting in time or offering services will help raise your profile and your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Sharing your thoughts will lead to interference and opposition. Make sure you are fully prepared to address any issues that arise. Keep your statements simple, to the point and within reason. Treat your responsibilities seriously. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take initiative. Size up your situation, target your goal and proceed to the finish line. Don't let personal demands stand in the way of your professional responsibilities. Love is on the rise and romance should be scheduled. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully to what's being discussed. You shouldn't overreact, but you also must make sure that you fight for what you want. Don't back down, and don't allow a change to a settlement or contract leave you at a loss. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Partnerships will be under scrutiny. Diplomacy is encouraged if you want to get your way. Know what you are up against and be willing to compromise in order to close a deal or secure your position. Expansion is apparent but must be reasonable. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Ask questions and you will get answers. Once you are able to put all the pieces together you will have a very good chance of getting what you want. Use your skills, talents and power of persuasion and you will capture attention. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*) Size up your personal situation and make the alterations to your home and domestic life that you desire. Socializing and networking will do wonders for your confidence and your overall appeal. Share creative ideas. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Caution will be necessary physically, financially and verbally. Don't stir things up or meddle in other people's affairs. Now is not the time to confront, but instead the time to protect your assets, reputation and your health. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Self-improvement projects will lead to compliments. You will make a good impression on people from your past if you make it a point to reconnect. Love and romance are in the stars and should be used to stabilize an important relationship. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let anxiety lead to impulsiveness or promising more than you can deliver. Patient and well-thought-out plans will be your ticket to success. Take on a job that will keep you busy and satisfy you. Let your imagination lead the way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong and courageous. You are adaptable, sensitive and engaging.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					7	1		
				3			9	
				4			3	8
	1	2			9	7		
4			5	1	2		8	
8							4	
	2						6	
		7	8	5	6	4		
			9		4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	6	5	9	7	1	2	3
7	3	9	8	2	1	4	5	6
5	2	1	3	4	6	7	8	9
9	5	8	6	7	3	2	4	1
4	6	7	9	1	2	8	3	5
3	1	2	4	5	8	6	9	7
1	7	3	2	8	5	9	6	4
6	8	4	7	3	9	5	1	2
2	9	5	1	6	4	3	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE SNIFFLES **Solution: 9 letters**

T	H	H	T	O	R	B	L	O	C	K	E	D	C	C
H	E	U	B	L	O	W	S	C	H	O	O	L	F	L
R	A	M	C	L	B	R	E	A	T	H	E	P	L	E
O	D	I	P	O	A	E	X	P	O	S	E	D	O	A
A	A	D	H	E	U	N	M	Y	R	E	T	A	W	R
T	C	I	T	S	R	C	K	A	W	S	O	C	C	E
N	H	F	S	E	A	A	H	E	E	K	R	O	W	P
E	E	I	V	N	S	W	T	R	T	T	L	L	L	M
U	T	E	C	D	E	S	O	U	N	D	S	O	A	I
Q	F	R	I	K	R	E	S	O	R	E	N	R	R	H
E	M	U	C	U	S	I	Z	G	R	E	T	N	I	W
R	L	N	L	A	S	A	N	E	E	L	S	E	V	K
F	L	N	E	L	L	O	P	K	V	B	U	E	N	I
S	A	Y	T	X	A	L	E	R	O	O	D	N	I	D
E	F	D	T	C	A	T	N	O	C	A	T	C	H	S

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Blanket, Bleed, Blocked, Blow, Breathe, Broth, Catch, Clear, Cold, Color, Contact, Couch, Cove, Drink, Dust, Exposed, Fall, Fever, Flow, Fluids, Frequent, Headache, Humidifier, Indoor, Kids, Mucus, Nasal, Pollen, Relax, Rest, Runny, School, Sneeze, Sore, Sounds, Steam, Tears, Temperatures, Tend, Thick, Throat, Tissue, Viral, Wash, Watery, Weep, Whimper, Winter, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Carriages

books THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 20, 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 or 36 sand $8.95 each plus $2 postage and handling for the first book and $0.50 each additional book, or money order, to: Universal Uclick, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Call toll-free, 1-800-591-2096. Certain puzzles are also available as downloadable puzzles, for Macintosh or Windows, at www.uclick.com/puzzles.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANT TO BUY

We wish to buy mileage — United/ Star Alliance. Please call 234-6533.

EMPLOYMENT

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $5.55/hr. At least 3 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Chef/Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): $5.55-8.20/hr. At least 5 years' experience in Korean and Western cuisine with license in both required. High school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 5 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

1-Data Encoder/Office Clerk. Salary $5.55p/h. 2-3 yrs exp. Email resume to LP Accounting at loidapark@yahoo.com.

Wanted: 1 Photographer w/ 2 years experience in digital camera & computer design. Send resume to dipoto@naver.com

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Unit approximately 600sq.ft. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

1-Room Attendant
Motivated self-starter, responsible for cleaning up to 17 rooms per shift. Minimum 6 months work experience. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays. Apply at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Position closes 5pm 4/16/13.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Cooks
- Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years.
- Salary $5.55 per hour.
- Must be willing to work from 3:00 in the morning.
- Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

Please submit your resume at Tun Goru Snack Bar
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) GENERAL MANAGER
(1) SUPERVISOR / CASHIER
If interested, send resume and copy of police clearance to
HANOM INVESTMENT SAIPAN, INC.
PMB 400 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: 233-5100

Xue, Jianjun dba Beauty Salon (HOLLYWOOD NAIL ART)
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Nail Designer. Salary $5.55 p/h.
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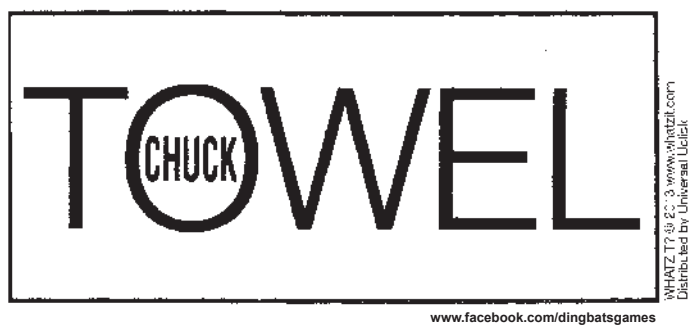

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Pitino leads class of 7 into Hall of Fame

AP

Members of the 2013 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame class line up for a photo after inductee announcements, Monday, April 8, 2013, in Atlanta, Georgia. Shown standing behind Jerry Tarkanian from left are Edwin and Nikki Henderson representing Dr. E.B. Henderson, Richard Guerin, Russ Granik, Sylvia Hatchell, Bernard King, Gary Payton, Rick Pitino, Dawn Staley, and CBS announcer Jim Nantz representing Guy Lewis.

ATLANTA (AP)—Rick Pitino got the phone call of a lifetime and an incredible text at the same time.

Last Wednesday, John Doleva, the president of the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, called seven people to tell them they'd in the class of 2013.

Pitino was one of the seven.

"When I got the call I was trying to call my wife over so she could hear it and I'm trying to put it on speaker phone and a text keeps beeping as I'm getting this special call," Pitino said Monday, just hours before he led Louisville against Michigan in the national championship game. "I saw the text. `Go Gophers. I got the job.'"

It was his son, Richard, who had just found out he was chosen to be the head coach at Minnesota.

It's been that kind of week for Pitino, who is among 12 people overall who will join the class of 2013.

The others announced Monday at a ceremony at the Final Four were college coaches Guy Lewis of Houston, Jerry Tarkanian of UNLV and Sylvia Hatchell of North Carolina, former NBA stars Bernard King and Gary Payton and former University of Virginia star Dawn Staley.

The inductions will take place in Springfield, Mass., on Sept. 8.

Inductees announced previously were: Edwin E.B. Henderson, a direct elect by the Early African Pioneer Committee; longtime Indiana Pacers guard Roger Brown; Oscar Schmidt of Brazil, the leading scorer in Olympic history; Richie Guerin, a star for the New York Knicks in the 1950s; and, Russ Granik, the longtime assistant commissioner of the NBA.

It was Pitino, however, who stole the show.

His Cardinals are in the championship game and a win would make him the first coach to win a title at two schools. He won it all with Kentucky in 1996.

On Saturday, Goldencents, a horse which Pitino co-owns, won the Santa Anita Derby, a major prep race for the Kentucky Derby.

"I was looking around for lightning," Pitino joked. "This was such a special moment."

Pitino, the only coach to take three schools to the Final Four, has won 661 games in 28 seasons as a college coach and his 47-16 record in the NCAA tournament is the third-highest winning percentage among active coaches.

He also had two stints in the NBA with the Boston Celtics and New York Knicks.

When he was a young assistant with the Knicks from 1983-85, Pitino forged a relationship with King, one of the most feared scorers in his playing days.

"I remember Rick as a very young coach, a coach starting his career, a coach who knew the game," said King, who averaged 22.0 points in his 15-year NBA career, including averaging 34.8 points in the 1984 NBA playoffs. "I remember Rick came with me to the NBA All-Star game and we were flying from Denver to San Antonio. We talked a lot about that even though we had some injuries we had to get off to a good start.

"That first game in San Antonio I scored 50 points. The next day in Dallas I had a milk shake and a turkey sandwich and scored 50 points again. I guess you can say this is the culmination of my life in basketball."

Payton was known as "The Glove" for his defensive prowess in his years with the Seattle SuperSonics. He was a two-time Olympic gold medalist.

"I was an offensive-minded guy when I went to Oregon State and coach Ralph Miller pulled me to the side and said `You'll be one of the greatest defensive point guards ever and I said to myself `Yeah right. I'm shooting every time I get the ball.' I got really good at it and started liking it and took it from there," Payton said.

Lewis led Houston to five Final Fours in his 30 years with the Cougars. His teams featured future Hall of Famers Clyde Drexler, Elvin Hayes and Hakeem Olajuwon.

Tarkanian took three schools to the NCAA tournament but he will always be known for his teams at UNLV that made four Final Four appearances and won it all in 1990.

Hatchell joins North Carolina men's coaches Dean Smith and Roy Williams as Hall of Famers. She is one of three women's coaches to record 900 victories and she has won national championships on three levels—AIAW, NAIA and NCAA.

Staley was a three-time Olympic gold medalist, a five-time WNBA All-Star and two-time national college player of the year with the Cavaliers. She is the only player in women's college basketball to record 2,000 points, 700 assists and 400 steals.

Pat Riley says Heat will be ready for playoffs

MIAMI (AP)—Pat Riley said he wakes up around 11 a.m. these days then heads into the office to chat with fellow Miami Heat executives Nick Arison and Andy Elisburg about nothing.

He's lying, of course.

There might not be anyone in the Miami organization who savors playoff time more than Riley, the Heat president with eight championship rings in his collection. And with Miami on the cusp of setting a franchise record for wins in a season—the team mark is 61, which this Heat club could match with a win against Milwaukee on Tuesday night—Riley sounds very much like he's ready for another postseason run.

''It's the ultimate dream for me," Riley said. ''It really is."

Riley last coached on April 16, 2008, the end of Miami's miserable 15-win season. All that's happened since is the promotion of Erik Spoelstra to head coach, the acquisition of LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Ray Allen, Mike Miller, Shane Battier, Mario Chalmers and others to play alongside Dwyane Wade, two trips to the NBA Finals, one championship and 288 regular-season and playoff victories—third-most in the league over that span.

And barring all-out collapse, Miami will head into the playoffs later this month as the No. 1 overall seed in the league, guaranteed home-court advantage through the NBA Finals.

''They're ready," said Riley, who sits opposite the Heat bench during home games, rarely showing any outward signs of emotion. ''They know that they have something to play for. They know they have the weapons to go out and play for it. They're so smart as a team. They're getting themselves ready on their own clock and Spo is getting them ready the same way. They'll be ready to play."

Riley rarely gives interviews about the state of the Heat anymore, preferring the overwhelming majority of the focus and spotlight remain on Spoelstra and the players. He issued a statement through a team spokesman late last month directed at Boston Celtics president of basketball operations Danny Ainge, who chided James for complaining about the way he is officiated. Riley's response was swift, direct and slightly profane, though it served as a reminder that there's plenty of fire still burning within him.

And when he met with reporters Sunday at a Heat charity event—one that had ''the future" as a theme and raised over $503,000 for South Florida charities - Riley seemed to address his own future, indicating that his work in Miami is not over yet.

''I just want to keep helping them," Riley said. ''I want keep bringing in pieces that's going to complement them and hope we can have one of those 10-year rides, you know? You think about every team, the Celtics in the '60s and the Lakers in the '80s and the Bulls and then again the Spurs, those guys have been together for eight, nine, 10 years. And if we can keep this group together for eight, nine, 10 years, we're all going to have some fun."

What happens down the road is secondary these days to Riley and the Heat, however.

For them, the priority is right now.

Favors growing up as Jazz battle for playoff spot

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Tyrone Corbin remembers the scared pup that arrived in Salt Lake City as part of the Deron Williams trade two years ago.

Now the Jazz coach has so much confidence in Derrick Favors he wasn't afraid to unleash him with Utah's playoff hopes on the line.

The 6-foot-10 Favors delivered Sunday night, blocking a shot with 40.9 seconds left to preserve Utah's 97-90 road victory over Golden State. The win, coupled with the Lakers' loss to the Clippers, allowed Utah (41-37) to reclaim the Western Conference's final playoff spot.

If the Jazz go 3-1 over their remaining four games (Oklahoma City on Tuesday, Minnesota home/away, then Memphis), the Lakers (40-37) would have to win their last five because Utah owns the tiebreaker.

Favors, all grown up, looks forward to that crunch-time pressure.

Actually, Favors said Monday, ''There's no pressure. We know what we got to do, win these games."

It's that confidence that comes from feeling at home and wanted - a stark contrast to the power forward Corbin first saw in a Jazz uniform.

''He was a scared 19-year-old man that was surprised he got traded and didn't know what to think of it, what to think of us, or where to go next," Corbin said of Favors after the February 2011 deal with the New Jersey Nets, who eight months earlier had made the Georgia Tech standout the No. 3 overall pick of the 2010 draft. ''I think he's just relaxed and comfortable now because he feels wanted here and has a role in how good we do or how bad we do."

Many wondered how Utah would do after losing one of its big men, 6-11 Enes Kanter, to a dislocated left shoulder against Phoenix on March 27.

The 21-year-old Favors picked up the minutes and the slack. In the last five games he is averaging 27 minutes, 12.2 points, nine rebounds and two blocks, while shooting 24 of 42 (59.5 percent) from the field.

Sunday night he played nearly 30 minutes, finishing with 12 points, a team-high 13 rebounds and three blocks - none bigger than the one as Draymond Green drove strong to the rim with Utah leading 93-90.

Five seconds earlier, Corbin had subbed in Favors for starting center Al Jefferson.

''When coach subbed me out and put him back in, I couldn't be no happier than if he were putting me in the game," Jefferson said. ''I feel like that was the right move, and he made a big defensive stop there. Derrick Favors really is the key reason why our defense is great, especially in the key, in the crunch time of the game."

Guard Randy Foye said Favors controlled the game defensively, helping out on screens and pick-and-rolls while altering shots. ''He played his butt off and he really is the MVP of that game," Foye said afterward.

''His athleticism is huge for us, but then (so is) his understanding of defense and how to be in position and the effort and second effort you have to have to make plays, especially to close ball games," Corbin added."

Reds spoil Cardinals' home opener, 13-4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Count Cardinals pitcher Mitchell Boggs among those hoping Jason Motte comes back soon.

Over and over, St. Louis' stand-in closer self-critiqued his nightmarish ninth inning that left him with an outlandish 14.54 ERA and saddled the Cardinals with a 13-4 loss to the Cincinnati Reds in their home opener Monday.

The Reds scored nine times in the ninth. Boggs was charged with six earned runs while recording just one out.

"I'm not going to hide from this," Boggs said. "There's no excuses, I was bad today. I expect to be a part of lot of good ones."

"My mindset won't change, I'll show up tomorrow ready to go, ready to do whatever they ask me to do," he said.

Boggs (0-1) was 4-1 with a 2.21 ERA and a league-leading 34 holds last year as the setup man. Motte had a career-best 42 saves and was the first pitcher in franchise history to get all of the team's saves.

Manager Mike Matheny said before the game there's no timetable for Motte, on the 15-day disabled list with a right elbow strain. After rookie Trevor Rosenthal allowed the tying run in the eighth and Marc Rzepczynski allowed two runs on four hits in the ninth, Matheny did not contemplate any role changes.

One possible switch might be moving Edward Mujica from middle relief to the eighth inning to lessen the pressure on the 22-year-old Rosenthal.

AP

Cincinnati Reds' Chris Heisey, bottom, is safe at second for a double ahead of the tag from St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Pete Kozma during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 8, 2013, in St. Louis. The Reds won, 13-4.

Mets 7, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Matt Harvey threw seven impressive innings, John Buck hit a three-run homer and the New York Mets roughed up Roy Halladay in a 7-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday night.

Harvey (2-0) followed up a dominant first start with another sharp outing. He gave up one run, three hits and struck out nine. The 24-year-old righty allowed one hit and fanned 10 in seven scoreless innings against San Diego last Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Halladay (0-2) barely resembles the two-time Cy Young Award winner who had 40 wins and tossed a perfect game and postseason no-hitter in his first two years with the Phillies in 2010-11.

Halladay allowed seven runs and six hits in four-plus innings. He's given up 12 runs in 7 1-3 innings in two starts after a tough spring.

Brewers 7, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Marco Estrada pitched seven effective innings and doubled home a run Monday, helping the Milwaukee Brewers stop a five-game slide with a 7-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs in the first game of the season at Wrigley Field.

Estrada (1-0) allowed two runs and five hits while bouncing back from a lackluster season debut against Colorado. The right-hander also drove in Alex Gonzalez with a drive into the gap in right-center during Milwaukee's two-run seventh.

Norichika Aoki collected three more hits and Ryan Braun went 3 for 4 with two doubles after missing Milwaukee's weekend sweep by Arizona due to spasms on the right side of his neck

Braves 2, Marlins 0

In Miami, Justin Upton went 4 for 4, including his sixth home run, and Paul Maholm allowed one hit in seven sharp innings to help Atlanta spoil Miami's home opener.

The Braves earned their fourth consecutive victory and improved to 6-1, their best start since 2007. The Marlins lost their third game in a row and fell to 1-6, their worst start since 2006.

Announced attendance was 34,439, with thousands of empty seats and many tickets sold at discounted prices. Some fans pledged to stay away this season because they're angry that owner Jeffrey Loria reverted to a frugal payroll only a year after the team opened a new ballpark built mostly with taxpayer money.

Giants 4, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer in the first inning that held up, Buster Posey added a late RBI single and the San Francisco Giants snapped the Colorado Rockies' five-game winning streak with a 4-2 victory Monday night.

Madison Bumgarner (2-0) won his sixth in a row against the Rockies and owns a seven-start unbeaten run in the rivalry. The left-hander began his career 0-3 against Colorado in five starts.

He struck out five and walked five in 5 2-3 innings Monday, allowing two runs and five hits.

Pirates 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Andrew McCutchen drove in two runs, Garrett Jones homered and the Pittsburgh Pirates snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-3 on Monday night.

McCutchen doubled in a run in the Pirates' three-run first inning and broke a 3-all tie with his sacrifice fly after Starling Marte's leadoff triple in the fifth.

Jeanmar Gomez (1-0) got the victory in relief of Wandy Rodriguez, who left after 2 1-3 innings because of tightness in his left hamstring. Trevor Cahill (0-2) allowed four runs and four hits in five innings for the Diamondbacks.

Mariners 3, Astros 0

In Seattle, Kendrys Morales drove in two runs in his Seattle home debut, Joe Saunders rebounded from a rough first start to throw 6 1-3 shutout innings, and the Mariners debuted the new look of Safeco Field with a 3-0 win over the Houston Astros on Monday.

Morales snapped Seattle's 0-for-14 drought with runners in scoring position by chopping an RBI single in the first and added a two-out RBI double in the third, both off Houston starter Philip Humber (0-2). Michael Saunders scored each time.

Saunders (1-1) and the bullpen made it stand on a cool night with the stadium roof open. He combined with three relievers for the Mariners' second shutout.

Yankees 11, Indians 6

In Cleveland, Travis Hafner drove in four runs in his return to Cleveland and Robinson Cano homered twice as injury-riddled New York ruined the Indians' highly anticipated first home game under manager Terry Francona with an 11-6 win Monday.

Hafner hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Ubaldo Jimenez (0-1) and added an RBI single in the third. Cano connected in the fifth and sixth for the Yankees.

Hiroki Kuroda (1-1) shook off a shaky, 34-pitch first and showed no signs of being bothered by a bruised right middle finger as the Yankees finally won a home opener after losing their own and Detroit's last week.

Red Sox 3, Orioles 1

In Boston, Daniel Nava hit a three-run homer, Clay Buchholz pitched seven shutout innings and the surprising Red Sox won their ninth straight home opener, beating Baltimore.

Nava broke open a scoreless duel between Buchholz (2-0) and Wei-Yin Chen (0-1) in the seventh inning with his second homer in two days.

The Red Sox are off to a strong start at 5-2 under new manager John Farrell.

Buchholz gave up three hits and three walks and struck out eight.

Royals 3, Twins 1

In Kansas City, Ervin Santana pitched eight strong innings, Alcides Escobar doubled home the go-ahead run and the Royals rallied to beat Minnesota in their home opener.

Santana (1-1), acquired from the Los Angeles Angels on Oct. 31 for minor league left-hander Brandon Sisk, gave up a run and eight singles. He struck out seven, walked one and hit a batter. Santana allowed only four hits after the first inning, when the Twins scored their lone run.

Twins right-hander Kevin Correia (0-1) limited the Royals to five singles and no runs the first seven innings before Lorenzo Cain doubled to right-center to lead off the three-run eighth.

Rangers 5, Rays 4

In Arlington, Joe Nathan's latest save will be easy to remember.

The Texas Rangers closer got his 300th career save, a 5-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night that ended on a disputed called third strike that the home-plate umpire later admitted he got wrong.

"Fortunately, I got a decent call there at the end. I've seen plenty go the other way," Nathan said. "The umpires have a tough job too. He's back there for three hours, seeing a lot of pitches. I've seen plenty of close calls go against us."

QB Kolb signs with Bills, eager for shot to start

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Having already squandered two chances to prove himself as an NFL starter, quarterback Kevin Kolb arrived in Buffalo on Monday eager for a third opportunity.

"This is a big chance for me," Kolb said, shortly after officially signing a two-year contract potentially worth more than $12 million. He agreed to the deal March 30. ''That's why I came here. And I'm excited about getting out there and doing some special things."

A free agent after being cut by the Arizona Cardinals last month, Kolb mentioned several reasons that attracted him to Buffalo. The Bills have an immediate need for an experienced quarterback, and he's comfortable with the up-tempo, West Coast-style of offense being introduced by rookie coach Doug Marrone.

He has no problem having to compete for the job with returning backup Tarvaris Jackson and potentially a rookie prospect the Bills are expected to select. And Kolb maintained confidence he has what it takes to put behind an injury-troubled past that scuttled his previous opportunities in Arizona and Philadelphia.

"For me, I know I can play at this level. I've done it here and there throughout my career two or three games at time," he said, referring to injuries that cost him. "There are very limited opportunities in this league, and I've been lucky enough to have had a few of them. I plan on taking 100 percent care of that, and making sure I do my part to play at the highest level."

The Bills have relatively high expectations of Kolb, too. At the very least, they're counting on him fill an immediate need at starter after releasing Ryan Fitzpatrick for salary-cap reasons last month.

"We wanted to add some veteran experience to the quarterback position on our roster, and we think we've added a good one by signing Kevin," general manager Buddy Nix said in a statement released by the team. "He's a player we had targeted since he became a free agent, and he should be a strong candidate in the competition for the starting quarterback position."

The Bills haven't ruled out drafting a quarterback in three weeks.

Marrone said Kolb's signing won't alter the Bills approach to the draft, but did also cite the importance of adding veteran experience to the position.

''I'm not going to lie," Marrone said. ''I think it was very important for us to get a veteran on the roster for that competition. Very important."

Selected by Philadelphia in the second round of the 2007 draft out of Houston, Kolb's NFL career has been clouded by inconsistency. With a 9-12 record as a starter, he's completed 59.5 percent of his passes, while throwing 28 touchdowns and 25 interceptions in 34 career games.

The Eagles drafted Kolb with an eye on him replacing Donovan McNabb. Kolb, however, was injured in the 2009 opener and eventually lost the starting job to Michael Vick.

Inter, Wild Bill's share M-League lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inter Godfather's extended its streak to three after beating Korean Football Association on Saipan, 3-1, at the resumption of action in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

With the victory, Inter (3-0-1), which dropped its opener against Paire FC before winning against MP United, 1-0, and Wild Bill's, 2-1, forced a tie for the Division 1 lead with the latter. KFAS is at the bottom half of the six-team field with its 1-1-2 win-draw-loss slate, sharing the fourth to fifth place with Tan Holdings (1-1-2)

The Inter-KFAS tiff was the first match played last Sunday and the latter seemed all set to halt the former's winning run after scoring early in the first half. Chong Koo Gil put KFAS on the board with his goal in the 12th minute. Eight minutes later, Inter Godfather's equalized off Matt Holley's goal and it went on to grab the lead at halftime, 2-1, after Ropati Tonuu found the back of the net in the 33rd.

Inter Godfather's continued to neutralize KFAS in the second half, while Ryu Tanzawa added one more goal for the league-leading team in the 65th minute to keep the squad's streak.

Wild Bill's 2, Tan Holdings 0

Wild Bill's (3-0-1) regrouped after absorbing its first loss of the season at the hands of Inter Godfather's.

Veteran striker Jack Thoensaket and explosive youth player Tanapon Unsa teamed up in Wild Bill's win versus the inaugural M-League Division 1 champion Tan Holdings. Thoensaket started Wild Bill's offense with his goal in the 28th minute, while Unsa also made it to the scoreboard eight minutes later.

With its twin goals last Sunday, Wild Bill's has scored the most goal so far in the spring season with its 15. KFAS has earned the second most goals with 10, followed by MP United and Inter, which have seven apiece, Tan Holdings (4) and Paire (3).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Inter Godfather's player goes for a header during their game against Wild Bill's in Week 5 of the M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

MP United 2, Paire 1

In the last Division 1 match of the weekend, MP United edged Paire to improve to a 2-0-1 slate.

Daniel Agulto made the winning goal five minutes before the match wrapped up, while Jehn Joyner drilled the other goal for MP United, which moved up to Division 1 this spring after ruling Division 2 last fall season.

Paire, which is at the bottom of the team standings with its 1-0-3 card, took a 1-0 edge at halftime after getting a goal off MP United's miscue in the 44th minute. Paire then hang on to the driver's seat for more than half of the second frame before Joyner forced a standoff in the 71st. MP United went on to complete the come-from-behind win off Agulto's goal in the 85th.

DIVISION 2
Sun Palace 1, Matansa 0

Newcomer Sun Palace continues to put on a strong showing in its debut season after downing Matansa, 1-0.

Sun Palace moved up to second place in the Division 2 standings with its 2-0-1 slate, just one win behind the undefeated Kanoa FC (3-0-0), while Matansa dropped to third with its 1-0-3 card. Shirley's FC completes the field and is at the bottom of the standings with its 0-0-2 record.

Fradel Sedillo drilled the lone goal in the match, scoring in the 14th minute and giving Sun Palace its fourth goal of the season.

LOUISVILLE

From Page 28

"Our biggest motivation," Peyton Siva added, "was to get coach a tattoo."

That's about the only thing that didn't exactly turn out in Petino's favor. Earlier Monday, he was introduced as a member of the latest Hall of Fame class. On Saturday, his horse won the Santa Anita Derby to set up a run for the roses. And last week his son got the coaching job at Minnesota.

The Cardinals (35-5) lived up to their billing as the top overall seed in the tournament, though they sure had to work for it.

Louisville trailed Wichita State by a dozen in the second half before rallying for a 72-68 victory. This time, they fell behind by 12 in the first half, then unleashed a stunning spurt led by Hancock that wiped out the entire deficit before the break.

"I had the 13 toughest guys I've ever coached," Pitino said. "I'm just amazed they could accomplish everything we put out there."

No one was tougher than Hancock, who matched his season high after a 20-point effort in the semifinal victory over Wichita State. This time, he came off the bench to hit four straight 3-pointers in the first half after Michigan got a boost from an even more unlikely player.

Freshman Spike Albrecht made four straight from beyond the arc, too, blowing by his career high before the break with 17 points. Coming in, Albrecht was averaging 1.8 points a game and had not scored more than seven all season.

Albrecht didn't do much in the second half, but Hancock finished what he started for Louisville. He made it 5-for-5 when he hit his final 3 from the corner with 3:20 remaining to give the Cardinals their biggest lead, 76-66. Michigan wouldn't go away, but Hancock wrapped it up by making two free throws with 29 seconds left.

While Pitino shrugged off any attempt to make this about him, there was no doubt the Cardinals wanted to win a national title for someone else - injured guard Kevin Ware.

Watching again from his seat at the end of the Louisville bench, his injured right leg propped up on a chair, Ware smiled and slapped hands with his teammates as they celebrated in the closing seconds, the victory coming just 30 miles from where he played his high school ball.

Ware's gruesome injury during the regional final will forever be linked to this tournament. He landed awkwardly, snapped his leg and was left writhing on the floor with the bone sticking through the skin. On this night, he hobbled gingerly onto the court with the aid of crutches, basking in a sea of confetti and streamers.

Louisville again came out wearing Ware's No. 5 on the back of their warmup jerseys; the front said, "Ri5e to the Occasion." When the title belonged to the Cardinals, Ware put on a championship cap and got a big hug from Pitino. Then, they lowered the basket so the injured player could cut a strand out of the net.

This one belonged to him as much as anyone on the court.

"These are my brothers," Ware said. "They got the job done. I'm so proud of them, so proud of them."

Siva added 18 points for the Cardinals, who closed the season on a 16-game winning streak, and Chane Behanan chipped in with 15 points and 12 rebounds as Louisville slowly but surely closed out the Wolverines (31-8).

Michigan was in the title game for the first time since the Fab Five lost the second of two straight championship games in 1993. Players from that team, including Chris Webber, cheered on the latest group of young stars.

But, like the Fab Five, national player of the year Trey Burke and a squad with three freshman starters came up short in the last game of the season.

"A lot of people didn't expect us to get this far," said Burke, who led the Wolverines with 24 points. "A lot of people didn't expect us to get past the second round. We fought. We fought up to this point, but Louisville was the better team today, and they're deserving of the win."

Louisville has a chance to make it two national titles in 24 hours.

The surprising women's team faces Connecticut on Tuesday night in the championship game at New Orleans.

Good luck matching this breakneck finale. The first half, in particular, might have been the most entertaining 20 minutes of the entire men's tournament.

Burke started out on fire for Michigan, hitting his first three shots and scoring seven points to match his output from the semifinal victory over Syracuse, when he made only 1-of-8 shots.

Albrecht took control when Burke picked up his second foul and had to go to the bench for the rest of the half. The kid whose nickname comes from his first pair of baseball spikes showed he's a pretty good hoops player, knocking down one 3-pointer after another to send the Wolverines to a double-digit lead.

When Albrecht blew by Tim Henderson with a brilliant hesitation move, Michigan led 33-21 and Louisville was forced to call timeout. The freshman was mobbed on the Michigan bench, as if the Wolverines had already won the national title, with one teammate waving a towel in tribute.

"That was honestly, probably back to high school days," Albrecht said, remembering when he's had a similar stretch. "Coach (John) Beilein doesn't play guys with two fouls in the first half, so I knew I was in the rest of the half, and I was fortunately hitting shots. Teammates were finding me. That's about it."

It didn't last. Not against Louisville.

The Cardinals came back one more time.

"We just went into war right there with a great Michigan team," Hancock said. "We needed a rally and we've been doing it for a couple of games straight, being down. We just had to wait and make our run."

Burke, who played only six minutes in the first half because of the foul trouble, did his best to give Michigan its first championship since 1989. But he couldn't do it alone. Albrecht was held scoreless after the break, and no one else posted more than 12 points for the Wolverines.

Still, it was quite a run for a fourth-seeded team that knocked off No. 1-seeded Kansas with the greatest comeback of the tournament, rallying from 14 points down in the second half to beat the Jayhawks in the round of the 16.

But they came up against the ultimate comeback team in the final.

"I've had a lot of really good teams over the years, and some emotional locker rooms, and that was the most emotional we've ever had," Beilein said. "The team unity we had, the sacrifice we had from five seniors who did not get to play very much, to these young guys buying into the team concept.

"We feel bad about it. There are some things we could have done better and get a win, but at the same time, Louisville is a terrific basketball team. We have not seen that quickness anywhere."

Louisville had already pulled off a stunning rally in the Big East championship game—down by 16 in the second half, they won by 17—and another against Wichita State. They surged back again behind their own ace off the bench.

LOPEZ

From Page 28

men's field.

Race and Jones clinched the Open division crown after sweeping Bobby Cruz and Roy Pangelinan in the finals last Sunday, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4. The teacher/coach and student duo advanced into the title match after slipping past Dunlop and Lee in the semifinals last Saturday, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Pangelinan and Cruz had an easier semis assignment, coasting past junior players Amami Sakano and Tommy Choi, 6-4, 5-3 (retired).

Although they fell short in the men's Open doubles, Dunlop and Lee still went home with a championship win, as they topped the round-robin men's 4.0 doubles. Lee and Dunlop had the title in the bag as early as Saturday when they defeated the PIC tandem of Ralph Buenaventura and June Keller, 6-0, 6-0. Lee and Dunlop's other victory was recorded last Friday against the father and son pair of Gary and Colin Ramsey, 6-2, 6-3. The Ramseys went on to settle for runner-up honors after sweeping Buenaventura and Keller last Sunday, 6-1, 6-4.

In the men's 3.0 doubles finals last Sunday, Castillo and Sang prevailed over junior players Dylan Ackerman and Ken Song. The eventual champions went the distance in the opening set, 7-6 (8-6) before cruising to a 6-1 win in the second set.

BUCHER

From Page 28

clocked in at 2:08:18 in the 1-kilometer swim, 26K bike 10K run course.

Bucher, who lost her XTERRA Saipan crown to Slack last month, dropping to third place and having the same misfortunes in Tagaman Triathlon and XTERRA Guam, finished last weekend's competition about six minutes ahead of the latter. The seven-time XTERRA Saipan champion was fifth out of the water in the women's field with her 20:17 and behind by about two and three minutes against Slack (17:59) and Wasle (19:07), but caught up with her two rivals in the bike leg.

The 35-year-old pro clocked in at 1:03:31 in the bike race, about six minutes ahead of Slack (1:09:31) and Wasle (1:09:54). Bucher pushed herself harder in the last leg of the race for a strong finish and a split time of 43:48.

"I felt really good on the bike and caught the girls early so I had a good lead for the run and felt no pressure. I just ran and ran and finally had a really fast running time. Normally, Carina and Jacqui are the faster runners, but not on Sunday," said Bucher, who led by about three minutes in the run leg versus the runner-up Slack (46:02) and six minutes against Wasle (49:57).

Bucher is now in Zealand for the XTERRA Rotorua, which will be held this Saturday.

"Last night I arrived in New Zealand to race in XTERRA Rotorua for the very first time. It is a bit cold here. I love the warm weather, the blue ocean and the sunsets and sunrises. Here it is different. The nature is wild, green, hilly, but I love it too," Bucher said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She added that she is lucky and thankful to have the opportunity to travel to different places, including the beautiful island of Saipan.

"XTERRA Saipan will be my favorite race forever. Even if I'm not winning there anymore, XTERRA Saipan still gives me strength and motivation to compete," Bucher said.

Week 1 of 13th PIC Tennis Championships

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Colin Ramsey chases the ball at the baseline during his semis match against Dylan Ackerman in the boys U15 singles event in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Dylan Ackerman gets ready to serve against Colin Ramsey.

Asia Raulerson looks at Julia Ishikawa first before serving.

Michael Jones returns to Tony Kim during their quarterfinals game in the boys U12 singles.

Carol Lee goes for a volley during a warmup for her and Melody Johnson's doubles match versus Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy.

Tony Kim has all eyes on the ball.

Melody Johnson smiles, left, after teammate Carol Lee scored during their game against Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy.

Robbie Schorr makes a backhand slice during his U12 title game against Tony Kim.

Ken Song serves, while teammate Dylan Ackerman looks on during their men's 3.0 doubles title match versus Don Castillo and Yeming Sang.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Louisville beats Michigan for NCAA title

ATLANTA (AP)—What a week for Rick Pitino! He's elected to the Hall of Fame. His horse is headed to the Kentucky Derby. His son gets a prominent head coaching job.

Then he caps it off with what he wanted most.

Another national championship.

For that, he can thank 13 of the grittiest guys he's ever coached.

Luke Hancock produced another huge game off the bench, scoring 22 points, and Pitino became the first coach to win national titles at two schools when Louisville rallied from another 12-point deficit to beat Michigan 82-76 in the NCAA championship game Monday night.

"This team is one of the most together, toughest and hard-nosed teams," the coach said. "Being down never bothers us. They just come back."

More like relentless to the very end.

They're not stopping now, either. The players intend to hold Pitino to a promise he made: If they won a national title, he'd get a tattoo.

Better leave a lot of space, coach, if you want to make this a tribute to the team.

"I have a couple of ideas," said Hancock, who became the first sub in tournament history to be designated as most outstanding player. "He doesn't know what he's getting into."

See LOUISVILLE on Page 26

▶ Michigan guard Trey Burke (3) shoots over Louisville center Gorgui Dieng (10) during the second half of the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball championship game Monday, April 8, 2013, in Atlanta. AP

Lopez, Rastguiy lead doubles winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Negahr Rastguiy earned her second title in Week 1 of the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships after teaming up with Mikayla Lopez in winning the women's Open doubles crown last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Rastguiy, who took the girls U15 singles tiara, got her second championship after she and Lopez ruled the round-robin competition in the women's Open doubles. The diminutive duo first won over fellow youth player Carol Lee and Melody Johnson last Saturday, 7-5, 6-2, and then downed Thea Minor and Lydia Tan last Sunday, 6-2, 6-3, to clinch the doubles title.

Minor and Tan moved one step closed from winning the championship after enduring a three-set game against Johnson and Lee last Friday. Tan and Minor survived the extended opening set, 7-6 (7-5), but were forced to play the third set after Lee and Johnson bounced back in the second set, 6-4. The deciding set was another close fight with Tan and Minor eking out a 6-4 triumph.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mikayla Lopez, front, and Negahr Rastguiy wait for the serve of their foes Melody Johnson and Carol Lee during their women's Open doubles division game in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

In the other women's doubles finale (3.0), Sakiko Eda and Chiharu Sato slipped past Chieko Nagao and Kazumi Imai in three sets. Eda and Sato pulled off a 7-6 (8-6) win in the opening set, but missed the sweep after losing the second set, 3-6. The eventual champions then managed to regain their form in the third set and cruised to the 6-2 title win.

Eda and Sato marched into the finals of the women's 3.0 doubles after eliminating Antonia Reyes and Caitlin Tinney last Friday, 6-0, 6-1. Nagao and Imai took the other finals berth last Saturday after escaping with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 victory over Marivic Rosario and Tisha Ferrer.

Meanwhile, Jeff Race and Rafael Jones, Donn Dunlop and Dong Min Lee, and Don Castillo and Yeming Sang topped their respective divisions in the

See LOPEZ on Page 26

Bucher snaps skid in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Renata Bucher is back on top after falling short in four straight races last month.

The Swiss pro, which failed to win XTERRA Philippines, XTERRA Saipan, Tagaman, and XTERRA Guam, ended her series of tough lucks after ruling the 2013 XTERRA Great Ocean Road last Sunday. Bucher prevailed against rivals Jacqui Slack and Carina Wasle in the event held at the Anglesea, Surf Coast, Great Ocean Road in Victoria, Australia.

"Winning XTERRA Great Ocean was fantastic. I stayed there for a few weeks before the Asia Triple Crown and trained on the course and my hard work paid off," said Bucher, who

See BUCHER on Page 26

WWW.XTERRAPLANET.COM
Renata Bucher concentrates in negotiating the run leg of the 2013 XTERRA Great Ocean Road held last Sunday in Victoria, Australia.